

Candidate 3 evidence

Exam: MS N5 Assignment copy

Number of words: 593

Writing time: 37 minutes

Research topic/issue:

Describe the purpose/aims of your research

Should Scotland become an independent country?

To find arguments for Scottish independence

To find arguments against Scottish independence

To find public opinion on Scottish independence

Research methods:

10 marks

For two methods of research you have used to collect information during your assignment you should comment on:

- why you chose each method for your research
- strengths and weaknesses of each research method
- how you could do things differently

You should refer to the evidence for each research method which you have noted on your research sheet.

One research method I used was a government report on Scottish independence (Source 3)

One strength of this report was that it was published on the 4th March 2024 so it was up to date and reflected the governments view on Scottish independence as of now

Another strength of this report was that it had lots of detailed information regarding Scottish independence and gave the benefits of Scottish independence from every angle

One weakness of this report was that it was likely bias as the government are in the 'yes' camp regarding Scottish independence and gave very limited information on the negatives of Scotland becoming an independent country

Another weakness of this report was that it had lots of bulky information so it was hard to filter through key words and statistics in the report.

One improvement linked to this weakness would be that next time to include more headings or make the key information or statistics bolder easier to pick out.

Another research method I used was the statista website (Source 1)

One strength of this website is that the poll was made in September 2024 so it reflects the publics view as of now

Another strength of this website is that it uses a clear graph to display the polls results making it easy to pick out statistics

One weakness of this website is that it gives no context or background information to the poll and presents solely the statistics and no explanation as to why the poll was made

Another weakness of this website is that it had a small sample size meaning that it does not accurately reflects Scotlands view on Scottish independence

One improvement linked to this weakness would be to try and attract a larger sample size so the poll could more accurately relfect the publics view on Scottish independence

Research findings:

6 marks

Describe and explain the main findings of your research. You should refer to the research evidence on your research sheet.

- "We'd be the 14th richest country in the developed world" - Nicola Sturgeon
- An independent Scotland would be part of the worlds largest single market
- In the official vote for Scottish independence 55% voted no whilst 45% voted yes
- A recent poll shows 56% of people voted no to Scottish independence and 44% voted yes. This shows that the public still believe Scotland should not become an independent country
- The rest of the Uk comprises 60% of Scotland's exports
- The Scottish government have come to no formal agreement as to what currency an independent Scotland would use
- An estimated 40 million people claim Scottish ancestry worldwide

Research conclusions:

4 marks

What conclusions have you reached about your research topic or issue?

- To conclude, Scotland should not become an independent country
- This is because Scotland benefit from the ability to borrow money from the UK
- Scotland rely on the rest of the UK for exports
- Scotland are unsure as to what currency they would use if they became independent


Research Sheet**Should Scotland become an independent country?*****Aims***

- To find arguments for Scottish independence
- To find arguments against Scottish independence
- To find the public's opinion on Scottish independence

1. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1170409/scottish-independence>
Date published - September 2024
2. <https://www.economicsobservatory.com/an-independent-scotland-what-would-be-the-options-for>
Date published - 19th October 2022
3. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/building-new-scotland-independent-scotlands-place-world/pages/9>
Date published - 4th March 2024
4. <https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/nicola-sturgeon-quotes>
5. <https://yougov.co.uk/politics/articles/50536-scottish-independence-10-years-on>
Date published - 17th September 2024