Commentary on candidate evidence

Candidate 1

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each question of this course assessment component.

Political Issues and Research Methods

Part A

Question 2: Living political ideas

"Socialism is an ideology with little relevance in modern political systems."

Discuss, with reference to the UK/Scotland and any other country/countries you have studied. (30 marks)

Analysis

This response was awarded **7 out of the 8 marks** available.

Analysis is integrated with up-to-date examples and international comparisons which support points and the candidate's line of argument. This response covers a breadth of relevant factors with sound analysis of the Conservatives and Labour Parties. There is some excellent exemplification related to healthcare, tuition fees and nationalisation. The exemplification is also highly contemporary, including up-to-date and ongoing issues and events running up to May 2017, just prior to the examination. International comparators involving the USA and Romania are integrated to support points and evaluations. Stronger evidence to support analysis of socialism and its relevance or irrelevance to Romania and the SNP would improve this response.

Comparison

This response was awarded **6 out of the 6 marks** available.

There is accurate and insightful commentary on both the USA and Romania. This response moves beyond cursory coverage and uses both countries to make points of comparison with the UK and Scotland. On page 1 there is clear argument that socialism is less relevant in the USA whilst on page 2 there is a clear line of argument that socialism is less relevant within Romania with 'no prospect of that' which is both accurate and convincing. Reference to Australia is made on page 2 but is too brief and undeveloped to warrant any credit.

Evaluation

This response was awarded **7 out of the 8 marks** available.

This response does make reasoned points of evaluation throughout and maintains focus on the question. Judgements are made about the relevance of socialism in several places, suggesting that it is more relevant in some countries than others. The overall judgement, based on this candidate's coverage, comments accurately on socialism's irrelevance in the UK and USA but touches on alternative viewpoints by reasserting that it has more relevance in Scotland.

Synthesising information to structure and sustain lines of argument

This response was awarded **8 out of the 8 marks** available.

Sub-conclusions are drawn continually throughout this response. A clear line of argument is present with balanced consideration of the question. Points which refer to the National Health Service and education are well exemplified suggesting a good understanding of where socialism is most visible. The conclusion flows from a sustained line of argument and shows this candidate has a good understanding of the issue. The arguments are persuasive and well supported by analysis and evaluation of the evidence presented.

Overall, this candidate's response was awarded **28 out of 30 marks.**

Question 3: Political structures

"Uncodified constitutions are preferable to codified constitutions."

Discuss, with reference to the UK/Scotland and other country/countries you have studied. (30 marks)

Analysis

This response was awarded **4 out of the 8 marks** available.

First reading shows this to be a response which demonstrates good knowledge of constitutional issues in both the UK and the USA. There are a wide range of factors and issues discussed, but closer scrutiny shows that not all coverage is relevant, accurate or related well to the question. Some valid and accurate comment is made in relation to the USA's codified constitution and the UK's uncodified arrangements. However, much of the coverage is poorly related to the question or inaccurate, for example paragraph 2 on page 4 infers that Democrats controlled Congress throughout Barack Obama's presidency.

Comparison

This response was awarded **3 out of the 6 marks** available.

This response uses the USA as the comparator country. Despite issues of accuracy and relevance, there is an implicit understanding and attempt to comment on the distinctions between the UK's and the USA's constitutional set-ups. The lack of depth and breadth in the candidate's understanding of the issue caps the marks this response can be awarded for this element.

Evaluation

This response was awarded **3 out of the 8 marks** available.

In the candidate's analysis of the issue there is limited evaluation made which is credible, other than those related to the Supreme Court in the USA in paragraph 2 of page 4 and codified constitutions ensuring individual rights in paragraph 4 of page 4.

Synthesising information to structure and sustain lines of argument

This response was awarded **2 out of the 8 marks** available.

There is an attempt to draw the information across the essay together into an overall conclusion but this produces a final paragraph that is more of a summary. The comment on Trump and the US constitution is creditable; however, there is insubstantial and unproven judgement in relation to the UK. Due to the incoherent line of argument it draws on, this response is not highly credited.

Overall, this candidate's response was awarded **12 out of 30 marks.**

Part B

Question 4

You are researching corruption in politics.

To what extent would covert participant observation be the best method for investigating this issue?

In your answer you should make reference to relevant examples. (15 marks)

Analysis

This response was awarded **6 out of the 6 marks** available.

Analysis in this response offers insight into the advantages and disadvantages of covert observation. The candidate offers relevant and contemporary supporting evidence, drawing on knowledge of social science research methods and examples of the method's use including 'A View from the Boys' and William Whyte's 'Street Corner Society' study amongst others. Contrast is also made in relation to aspects of overt observation.

Evaluation (research methods)

This response was awarded **3 out of the 6 marks** available.

Numerous issues in relation to ethics are considered, eg seeking permission from participants, maintaining cover to allow for natural behaviour, etc. The candidate's own alternative method, overt observation, lacks evaluation. There is evaluation of the key strengths of the method in question, but there is no attempt to address the specified scenario in the question which means no more than 3 marks can be awarded.

Conclusion

This response was awarded **1 out of the 3 marks** available.

Although the final paragraph can constitute a conclusion, this is merely a summary of points raised previously. This answer lacks a judgement on the extent to which covert observation is the best method and why this is the case.

Overall, this candidate's response was awarded **10 out of 15 marks**.

Question 5

To what extent can source A be considered trustworthy? (15 marks)

Analysis of a source

This response was awarded **4 out of the 6 marks** available.

This response identifies key aspects of the source which impacts on its trustworthiness, eg information has been adapted, cross checking within a small team, influential SEO, etc. There is balanced coverage of the source's strengths and limitations and reference to supporting source evidence. Some points lack depth and there is confusion regarding the lack of sample information which is not relevant in this source.

Evaluation of trustworthiness

This response was awarded **3 out of the 6** marks available.

Strengths and weaknesses of this source are addressed. Comments on the validity and reliability of the source would need to be of a higher quality to score more.

Conclusion

This response was awarded **0 out of the 3 marks** available.

This answer does not contain a conclusion.

Overall, this candidate's response was awarded **7 out of 15 marks**.

Total marks

In total, this candidate was awarded **57 out of the 90 marks** available for the question paper component.

Commentary on candidate evidence

Candidate 2

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each question of this course assessment component.

Social Issues, Law and Order and Research Methods

Part A

Question 6: Understanding the criminal justice system

"Recent criminal justice issues show that aspects of current systems are failing."

Discuss, with reference to the UK/Scotland and other country/countries you have studied. (30 marks)

Analysis

This response was awarded **4 out of the 8 marks** available.

The factors the candidate identifies are related to the question: courts, police and prison. Across some of these areas there is supporting evidence, but this response has a tendency to provide generalised descriptions of the coverage. Although Ireland is presented as an international comparator, the quality and evidence is poor. The efforts to provide evaluation are also poor, formulaic and largely unsubstantiated. The candidate repeatedly asserts, 'This shows…' when they have not.

Comparison

This response was awarded **2 out of the 6 marks** available.

This response relies solely on Ireland as an international comparison. The evidence presented in relation to the Irish court system and the Garda is limited in detail and the candidate fails to explicitly evaluate how Ireland's Criminal Justice System compares to Scotland in relation to these areas.

Evaluation

This response was awarded **3 out of the 8 marks** available.

Attempts are made to offer evaluation but these are poor. The candidate's evaluation of factors relating to courts and prisons are not supported by their preceding analysis and therefore not creditable. Some credit is given for critical evaluation of the Irish Criminal Justice System.

Synthesising information to structure and sustain lines of argument

This response was awarded **3 out of the 8 marks** available.

Based on the analysis, the overall judgement reached is not proven and fails to consider Ireland (which it has covered) in reaching a conclusion.

Overall, this candidate's response was awarded **12 out of 30 marks.**

Question 7: Understanding criminal behaviour

"Criminal behaviour within societies cannot be explained by one single theory of crime."

Discuss, with reference to the UK/Scotland and other country/countries you have studied. (30 marks)

Analysis

This response was awarded **5 out of the 8 marks** available.

The candidate identifies poverty-unemployment as a key factor but predominately looks at related theories and theorists including Sheldon's Somatotyping, Labelling Theory and Durkheim's Functionalist theory of crime.

Comparison

This response was awarded **3 out of the 6 marks** available.

Across the response only two instances cover the global context in a creditable manner; page 10 on USA prison inmates' earnings and page 10 on murder ratios. The reference to the USA on page 14 relating to civil rights is not credited. Although limited comparison is made, the points do allude to similarity with the UK and are supported by relevant evidence.

Evaluation

This response was awarded **2 out of the 8 marks** available.

Attempts at evaluation are provided for all of the factors identified by the candidate. However, only the evaluations on somatotyping and functionalism are credit worthy. Evaluations in relation to poverty and labelling are not creditable.

Synthesising information to structure and sustain lines of argument

This response was awarded **3 out of the 8 marks** available.

The candidate offers an overall judgement that there is no one single theory of crime but this is not necessarily based on a fully coherent line of argument.

Overall, this candidate's response was awarded **13 out of 30 marks.**

Part B

Question 9

You are researching crimes committed by gangs in the UK.

To what extent would covert participant observation be the best method for investigating this issue?

In your answer you should make reference to relevant examples. (15 marks)

Analysis

This response was awarded **2 out of the 6 marks** available.

There is some basic understanding of different research methodologies including covert observation, government statistics and surveys. Appropriate terminology is used in places but this answer is also contradictory. There is a confusing start to this question where the candidate seems to mix up covert and overt participant observation. The analysis of covert participant observation is unconvincing and lacks exemplification. Analysis of the alternative methods of government statistics and surveys are not well related to the scenario

Evaluation (research methods)

This response was awarded **2 out of the 6 marks** available.

There are attempts at evaluation but these attempts are underdeveloped. This candidate addresses alternative research methods to covert participant observation including government statistics and surveys in their response. However, the extent to which government statistics and surveys would be the most valid methods to investigate gangs or gang related crime is questionable.

Conclusion

This response was awarded **0 out of the 3 marks** available.

This conclusion is contradictory. The candidate struggles to communicate which type of methodology is most appropriate in this scenario. The judgement that covert observation is the best method is unsubstantiated.

Overall, this candidate's response was awarded **4 out of 15 marks**.

Question 10

To what extent can Source B be considered trustworthy? (15 marks)

Analysis of a source

This response was awarded **2 out of the 6 marks** available.

This candidate struggles to provide effective analysis. For example, their understanding of weighting and sampling is questionable as are comments on the validity of data from the Home Office. There is some relevant identification and comment on aspects of the source which impacts on its trustworthiness. However, there is a lack of understanding regarding the origin of the source.

Evaluation of trustworthiness

This response was awarded **2 out of the 6 marks** available.

There is very little developed and convincing evaluation in this response. The candidate does not exhibit any real knowledge of how to conduct social science research and fails to include any evidence from researchers. Some credit is awarded for the comment on page 20 which points out that the data had to be changed to take account for the low response rate and stratification of the original sample. In addition, a brief comment about the strengths of telephone interviews on page 20 also warrants credit.

Conclusion

This response was awarded **1 out of the 3 marks** available.

The overall conclusion to this answer is basic and contradicted, in parts, by the evidence. Credit is given for commenting on the source being trustworthy overall and offering a simple justification of why.

Overall, this candidate's response was awarded **5 out of 15 marks**.

Total marks

In total this candidate was awarded **34 out of the 90 marks** available for the question paper component.

Commentary on candidate evidence

Candidate 3

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each question of this course assessment component.

Political Issues and Research Methods

Part A

Question 1: Power and influence

"The electoral system is the key factor in encouraging or discouraging multi-party representation."

Discuss, with reference to the UK/ Scotland and other country/ countries you have studied. (30 marks)

Analysis

This response was awarded **5 out of the 8 marks** available.

From the outset this response provides context and identifies several variables which determine the extent of multi-party representation including plurality and proportional electoral systems, the influence of manifestos, party leaders and the role of the media. There is sound analysis of how the single transferable vote system contributes to multi-party representation at the local level.

Comparison

This response was awarded **4 out of the 6 marks** available.

This response includes an examination of Malta and the USA but an in-depth comparison is not evident. The Labour Party's success in recent elections in Malta is creditable but this candidate's knowledge of the ability of electoral systems to influence multi-party politics in the USA is under-developed. Some of the conclusions drawn are incorrect, ie those relating to the number of Green Party members and the position of Fox News in supporting Obama's presidency being two such examples.

Evaluation

This response was awarded **5 out of the 8 marks** available.

A line of argument is established and argued throughout the essay. Accurate comment and evaluation is made to electoral systems used in the UK, USA, and Edinburgh Council elections and their outputs vis-à-vis producing two party and multi-party representation. Coverage of Malta's use of STV is valid but does not

make any judgements in relation to the question. By not doing so the candidate misses an opportunity to further their line of argument. In addition, the candidate's attempts at balanced evaluation on the impact of party leadership and television debates is difficult to quantify as it related to the 2017 General Election which was difficult to quantify at the time of writing.

Synthesising information to structure and sustain lines of argument

This response was awarded **5 out of the 8 marks** available.

A key strength of this response is that there is a line of argument evident from start to finish. Conclusions drawn over the course of the essay are largely accurate but weak in places. For example, the candidate's line of argument is hindered by a weak section on party manifestoes and the influence of party leaders in contributing to the proliferation of political parties. While the overall conclusion does make a definitive judgement that 'electoral systems are very important', the attempt at tackling counter arguments is vague.

Overall, this candidate's response was awarded **19 out of 30 marks.**

Question 3: Political structures

"Uncodified constitutions are preferable to codified constitutions."

Discuss, with reference to the UK/ Scotland and other country/ countries you have studied. (30 marks)

Analysis

This response was awarded **6 out of the 8 marks** available.

This candidate's response analyses a wide range of factors relevant to the question including federalism, separation of powers, checks and balances between branches of government, executive powers and the judiciary. Analysis builds to making evaluative judgments and evidence is provided from across the UK, USA, Russia and Scotland. However, the depth and quality of treatment is varied.

Comparison

This response was awarded **5 out of the 6 marks** available.

The bulk of the response is devoted to comparing the UK to the USA which is valid in relation to the distinct differences of each country's constitutional set-up. This response looks at power and checks on Executive power. On page 19 it looks at limits to the President's power, while on pages 25-26 it looks at the UK Supreme Courts role regarding triggering Article 50 and makes comparisons with Supreme Court nominations too. Reference to the Duma in Russia on page 22 is relevant but is bolted on, under-developed and does not advance the candidate's argument.

Evaluation

This response was awarded **5 out of the 8 marks** available.

The evaluation presented is basic. Although key factors are analysed, the evaluations which follow from the candidate's coverage is not always supported, accurate or relevant to the question. There is a lack of insight into the essence of the question and some comparisons mistakenly compare unrelated factors. For example, on page 20 the SNP's gagging orders are compared inaccurately to Executive Orders in the USA and Prime Minister Cameron's lack of Executive power in declaring war in Syria. Although the descriptions of each are accurate, they are not comparable in the context of this question.

Synthesising information to structure and sustain lines of argument

This response was awarded **4 out of the 8 marks** available.

The overall conclusion is stilted and mechanistic, much like the evaluation throughout. However, the overall judgment is relevant and draws on points covered in the candidate's line of argument. Despite this, the linking and sequencing of ideas across the response is not sophisticated and diminishes the overall impact of the candidate's argument.

Overall, this candidate's response was awarded **20 out of 30 marks**.

Part B

Question 4

You are researching corruption in politics.

To what extent would covert participant observation be the best method for investigating this issue?

In your answer you should make reference to relevant examples. (15 marks)

Analysis

This response was awarded **4 out of the 6 marks** available.

The response makes cursory reference to the scenario in question. There is breadth and coverage of relevant factors, eg covert participant observation can take time to arrange as trust must often be gained. However, there is lack of depth in some areas and points are under-developed. For example, this candidate comments on one advantage of covert participation being that individuals are being watched in their natural surroundings but fails to fully explain why this is more reliable.

Evaluation (research methods)

This response was awarded **5 out of the 6 marks** available.

This response effectively integrates ethical considerations in relation to the problem of consent being provided by the observed. In addition, an alternative method, semi structured interviews, is introduced and evaluated in relation to the scenario. However, more explicit reference to the scenario would be required to make the argument more persuasive.

Conclusion

This response was awarded **2 out of the 3 marks** available.

This conclusion justifies why it rejects covert participant observation as the best method for the scenario provided. It argues an alternative method is better suited but this method, overt participant observation, is not fully analysed or evaluated in the main body of the answer.

Overall, this candidate's response was awarded **11 out of 15 marks**.

Question 5

To what extent can Source A be considered trustworthy? (15 marks)

Analysis of a source

This response was awarded **4 out of the 6 marks** available.

This candidate's response addresses a range of issues but fails to fully develop them. Comments on web links, date of publication, adapted sources, and origins of the source (relating to trustworthiness) are valid. However, there are also unclear and unsubstantiated comments made in relation to the 'Klout Score' and 'Compete Score'. This response also comments on factors that are irrelevant to justifying the trustworthiness of the source.

Evaluation of trustworthiness

This response was awarded **5 out of the 6 marks** available.

This response introduces additional knowledge of social media to use as a research tool to critically evaluate Source A. Additionally, the candidate does acknowledge additional qualitative data could be used to support conclusions reached in Source A. To gain full marks in this element the coverage given to the date Source A was published and how this affects its trustworthiness would need further development and justification.

Conclusion

This response was awarded **1 out of the 3 marks** available.

A definitive conclusion is offered that Source A is not trustworthy but this is not adequately justified.

Overall, this candidate's response was awarded **10 out of 15 marks**.

Total marks

In total this candidate was awarded **60 out of the 90 marks** available for the question paper component.

Commentary on candidate evidence

Candidate 4

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each question of this course assessment component.

Social Issues, Law and Order and Research Methods

Part A

Question 7: Understanding criminal behaviour

"Criminal behaviour within societies cannot be explained by one single theory of crime."

Discuss, with reference to the UK/ Scotland **and** any other country/countries you have studied. (30 marks)

Analysis

This response was awarded **8 out of the 8 marks** available.

This candidate's response shows an in-depth understanding of the question, outlining a number of theories and related factors: Lombroso, Mednick, MAOA, Jim Fallon, Durkheim, Merton, Becker, Bowlby, parenting and poverty. Supporting evidence is provided from across a range of comparator countries. Analysis and evaluation are present and integrated within a clear line of argument.

Comparison

This response was awarded **6 out of the 6 marks** available.

Appropriate and detailed international comparisons are made drawing on Finland, Switzerland and Sweden to better understand the causes of crime. Exemplification from these countries is used to weigh and compare the most persuasive causes of crime.

Evaluation

This response was awarded **7 out of the 8 marks** available. .

Consistent judgements are made about the validity of the viewpoint that "Criminal behaviour within societies cannot be explained by one single theory of crime." This response consistently refers coverage back to the question, gradually advancing the line of argument and discrediting the less convincing explanations of crime such as Lombroso and other biological explanations when attempting to

explain non-violent crimes. However, the candidate's overall judgment is brief and does not do enough to merit full marks in this element.

Synthesising information to structure and sustain lines of argument

This response was awarded **8 out of the 8 marks** available.

This answer draws on examples which are contemporary and relevant. These include reference to Easterhouse in Glasgow in relation to poverty and crime; household income in Sweden and studies on prisoners from single-parent households which help develop the issue of the complexity of crime. While the overall conclusion is brief, it does follow from a sustained line of argument and covers key perspectives of crime and its causes. The briefness of the overall judgement is not penalised in this section and gains full marks.

Overall, this candidate's response was awarded **29 out of 30 marks.**

Question 8: Responses by society to crime

"Penal systems have had no significant impact on reoffending."

Discuss, with reference to the UK/ Scotland and other country/ countries you have studied. (30 marks)

Analysis

This response was awarded **6 out of the 8 marks** available.

This response focuses on drugs and purposeful activity in an in-depth manner but offers only a cursory look at Drug Treatment Testing Orders. To gain greater credit more depth would need to be offered on DTTOs. Evidence from international comparator countries are integrated to support the line of argument, eg drugs in Brazilian prisons is related to the issue in HMP Cornton Vale. Statistical evidence is also included to support analysis, eg on corruption of UK prison officers on page 12 and lack of purposeful activity on page 14. Although there are several international comparators, the isolated treatment of some reduces their quality, eg on page 16 the coverage of Halden Prison is poorly integrated and lacks depth.

Comparison

This response was awarded **6 out of the 6 marks** available.

International comparisons form a key part of this response's line of argument. Credible knowledge of Brazil, Norway and the USA penal system is shown. The candidate uses the USA example to make an evaluation on the extent of difference between DTTOs use in the UK compared to the USA. Contemporary statistical evidence is used to support comparisons.

Evaluation

This response was awarded **6 out of the 8 marks** available.

On page 11: "It can be argued that Penal systems have done little to ease…" suggests clear sign-posting of evaluation. Evaluations focus on the question throughout and refer back to the key issue in question, reoffending, throughout. Consideration that prisons do have a significant impact in reducing reoffending are considered, as well as alternative factors other than the penal system. The overall judgment follows from a coherent line of argument, but is brief.

Synthesising information to structure and sustain lines of argument

This response was awarded **7 out of the 8 marks** available.

There is a credible, coherent line of argument which relies on insightful and perceptive reasons. These are supported with specific contemporary exemplification which supports the evaluations made. The overall conclusion implicitly suggests that alternatives to prisons, and prison approaches in Norway, are better than prisons and the approach taken in the UK.

Overall, this candidate's response was awarded **25 out of 30 marks.**

Part B

Question 9

You are researching crimes committed by gangs in the UK.

To what extent would covert participant observation be the best method for investigating this issue?

In your answer you should make reference to relevant examples. (15 marks)

Analysis

This response was awarded **6 out of the 6 marks** available.

A range of relevant issues related to the method of covert participant observation are analysed including going native, sensitive topic area, time issues, cost considerations, illegal acts and issues of trust. Relevant and contemporary evidence includes reference to Ross Kemp's study of gangs and Donal McIntyre's insertion with football hooligans. The candidate's understanding of the method is clear and analytical comments are linked to evaluation.

Evaluation (research methods)

This response was awarded **6 out of the 6 marks** available.

This response clearly addresses the effectiveness of covert participation when it comes to studying gangs. Numerous ethical issues are covered including

deception, informed consent, law-breaking and causing harm. This candidate also analyses and evaluates the method of focus groups and phone surveys as well as briefly mentioning the potential benefits of using overt as opposed to covert participation.

Conclusion

This response was awarded **2 out of the 3 marks** available.

The conclusion is not clear but occurs on page 24, line 4 which starts, 'Nevertheless'. The conclusion follows on from a line of argument and is supported by a valid reason that covert participation would gauge the most truthful and in-depth results. It is clear that this is the preferred method. The overall judgment fails to justify why it rejected the other approaches.

Overall, this candidate's response was awarded **14 out of 15 marks**.

Question 10

To what extent can Source B be considered trustworthy?

Analysis of a source

This response was awarded **6 out of the 6 marks** available.

The candidate covers a range of key aspects of the source in relation to its trustworthiness. Issues touched on include the author being the Home Office, jargon, ambiguity of the image, sample size and the collection date. Knowledge of social science methodology is demonstrated in the coverage of telephone surveys, their response rate and the issue of honesty associated with this method.

Evaluation of trustworthiness

This response was awarded **5 out of the 6 marks** available.

The relative strengths of the source are clearly stated throughout the answer. There is also an assessment of potential weakness too, eg the sample size is large but when compared to the number of UK businesses is small. This candidate also goes onto discuss weighting in relation to this issue in an insightful manner. However, the candidate fails to refer to additional research/sources in judging the strengths and weaknesses of the source.

Conclusion

This response was awarded **3 out of the 3 marks** available.

The candidate's conclusion is thorough and follows on from a clear line of argument. The overall conclusion that the source is trustworthy is well supported by the preceding analysis.

Overall, this candidate's response was awarded **14 out of 15 marks**.

Total marks

In total this candidate was awarded **82 out of the 90 marks** available for the question paper component.

Commentary on candidate evidence

Candidate 5

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each question of this course assessment component.

Social Issues, Law and Order and Research Methods

Part A

Question 7: Understanding criminal behaviour

"Criminal behaviour within societies cannot be explained by one single theory of crime."

Discuss, with reference to the UK/ Scotland **and** any other country/ countries you have studied. (30 marks)

Analysis

This response was awarded **4 out of the 8 marks** available

There is evidence of analysis on a range of theories, eg strain theory, conflict theory, Lombroso, XYY and Pollack. Supporting evidence in relation to the London and Ferguson riots is provided. However, the treatment of these is highly descriptive and there is little evaluative comment linked to the analysis. The case study treatment of riots across pages 9-11 is largely descriptive and merits little credit.

Comparison

This response was awarded **3 out of the 6 marks** available.

There are international contexts explored through reference to the Finnish study of XYY chromosomes and strain theory as it is related to the USA. The Ferguson riots are compared directly to the London riots in relation to how they started but otherwise the riots are treated in isolation from one another. Overall, the international comparators referred to could be better integrated as part of overarching line of argument

Evaluation

This response was awarded **3 out of the 8 marks** available.

There are instances of evaluation in places but the quality and persuasiveness of the arguments presented are limited. A deeper and more compelling weighing of factors, in relation to the question, would improve this essay. The candidate does

not effectively critique or attempt to challenge or discredit any of the theories presented which prevents additional marks being awarded for this section.

Synthesising information to structure and sustain lines of argument
This response was awarded **3 out of the 8 marks** available.

The largely summative approach taken (Marx, London and Ferguson riots) hinders this candidate's ability to build and advance an effective line of argument. The overall conclusion provides an overall judgement that each theory is part of a bigger picture; however, the conclusion is limited by the lack of coherent argument throughout.

Overall, this candidate's response was awarded **13 out of 30 marks.**

Question 8: Responses by society to crime

"Penal systems have had no significant impact on reoffending."

Discuss, with reference to the UK/ Scotland **and** any other country/ countries you have studied. (30 marks)

Analysis
This response was awarded **7 out of the 8 marks** available.

This candidate offers sound analysis in many places. An exploration of health care, overcrowding and sentence length allow understanding to be illustrated. In addition, there is an awareness and comparison made between prison and comparable alternatives for non-violent offenders. The candidate accurately integrates analysis and evaluation when discussing short-term sentences and the lack of rehabilitation and the significant reduction in recidivism for those taking part in Paws for Progress. The candidate does not effectively advance their own view which prevents full marks.

Comparison
This response was awarded **4 out of the 6 marks** available.

There are creditable examples from Russian and Norwegian prisons and the recidivism rates from both prisons are directly compared (page 22). The candidate adopts a case study approach when evaluating prisons in both countries rather than integrating the comparison throughout their line of argument. A judgement regarding the penal systems, rather than individual prisons, would have been more effective.

Evaluation

This response was awarded **7 out of the 8 marks** available.

In several places this candidate effectively argues and weighs why and how prison is not effective. A more balanced treatment of the work of prisons would improve the evaluation element in this essay. There is a gradual and convincing line of argument which runs from the introduction through to the conclusion, eg on page 15, "*rehabilitation is essential in reducing offending*", page 17, *"CPOs are not necessarily successful"*, page 19, "*Paws for Progress has seen a significant reduction in offending*" and page 20, *"if these are achieved reoffending is greatly reduced".*

Synthesising information to structure and sustain lines of argument

This response was awarded **6 out of the 8 marks** available.

The overall conclusion results from a sustained line of argument and includes acknowledgement of a counter-argument. Though it is quite short, it is more than a cursory summary. While this candidate utilises a wide range of examples to support their points in some areas, exemplification is not well-integrated, eg in the coverage of the Black Eagle prison across pages 20-21.

Overall, this candidate's response was awarded **24 out of 30 marks.**

Part B

Question 9

You are researching crimes committed by gangs in the UK.

To what extent would covert participant observation be the best method for investigating this issue?

In your answer you should make reference to relevant examples. (15 marks)

Analysis

This response was awarded **4 out of the 6 marks** available.

This response analyses both advantages and disadvantages of covert participant observation. The method is recognised as effective in this scenario although there could be greater analysis on the obstacles in carrying out this kind of research. The Hawthorne effect is understood and applied to this question which further improves the candidate's analysis.

Evaluation (research methods)

This response was awarded **3 out of the 6 marks** available.

While the candidate does evaluate the suitability of this research method, the response fails to introduce an alternative research method which could be employed to allow for a comparison to be made. In addition, the treatment surrounding the ethics of this research method could also be expanded and improved.

Conclusion

This response was awarded **1 out of the 3 marks** available.

The one sentence conclusion is largely summative and does not persuasively weigh up the merits of this research method in comparison to an alternative method.

Overall, this candidate's response was awarded **8 out of 15 marks**.

Question 10

To what extent can Source B be considered trustworthy?

Analysis of a source

This response was awarded **4 out of the 6 marks** available.

This response identifies and comments on the strengths and weaknesses of the source. Too much of this answer is vague and under developed and therefore does not warrant additional marks. For example, the advantages of telephone surveys could be further explored and related to the question. The candidate's analysis which states 'it is quick and can reach many people' is not sufficient at this level.

Evaluation of trustworthiness

This response was awarded **3 out of the 6 marks** available.

While there is evidence of evaluation, the candidate fails to demonstrate adequate supporting knowledge about conducting social science research. In addition, consideration of alternative approaches to increase the trustworthiness of the source is absent.

Conclusion

This response was awarded **1 out of the 3 marks** available.

A judgement is presented that the source is 'accurate'. However, reasons to support this opinion are unconvincing, unpersuasive and brief.

Overall, this candidate's response was awarded **8 out of 15 marks**.

Total marks

In total this candidate was awarded **53 out of the 90 marks** available for the question paper component.

Commentary on candidate evidence

Candidate 6

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each question of this course assessment component.

Social Issues, Law and Order and Research Methods

Part A

Question 7: Understanding criminal behaviour

"Criminal behaviour within societies cannot be explained by one single theory of crime."

Discuss, with reference to the UK/ Scotland **and** any other country/ countries you have studied. (30 marks)

Analysis

This response was awarded **3 out of the 8 marks** available.

Knowledge of theoretical explanations of crime is shown across this response but there is a lack of breadth beyond the few theories covered. This response also struggles to examine the theories in relation to the question set and the extent to which they explain contemporary crime. This candidate does acknowledge there are multiple theories (Marx, strain and labelling theory, Bandura) but the response is largely descriptive with little comparison. The lack of evidence and depth prevents further marks in this element.

Comparison

This response was awarded **2 out of the 6 marks** available.

There is mention of the American Dream but this reference is not integrated to the line of argument. On page 5 riots in the USA are mentioned but this reference fails to advance the line of argument.

Evaluation

This response was awarded **3 out of the 8 marks** available.

There are some efforts to critique the theories introduced but this is largely unsuccessful, eg across pages 2-3 where it asserts "*although Strain Theory does explain criminal behaviour it does so to a partial extent*". The development that follows is not developed and unconvincing as a result. The candidate's line of argument is weak with factors to explain crime not robustly scrutinised or weighed against one other.

Synthesising information to structure and sustain lines of argument
This response was awarded **2 out of the 8 marks** available.

Synthesis is weak as this candidate largely summarises one explanation after another with little effective critical analysis or evaluation. A judgment is made; however, there is a lack of justification for this.

Overall, this candidate's response was awarded **10 out of 30 marks.**

Question 8: Responses by society to crime

"Penal systems have had no significant impact on reoffending."

Discuss, with reference to the UK/ Scotland **and** any other country/ countries you have studied. (30 marks)

Analysis
This response was awarded **5 out of the 8 marks** available for this element.

There is some analysis of factors relevant to the question, eg comparing the success of prison to programmes such as Glasgow 218 and electronic tagging. However, there is a lack of specific detail and evidence to support points. Open prisons are examined in relation to the question, but the coverage lacks depth.

Comparison
This response was awarded **2 out of the 6 marks** available.

The discussion of open prisons in Norway (page 12) is not integrated into the candidate's line of argument. Reference to electronic tagging is better but lacks credible evaluation.

Evaluation
This response was awarded **3 out of the 8 marks** available.

There is evaluation which leads on to an overall judgement but this is largely unconvincing. Evaluation of the penal estate in the UK is weak. Evaluation of electronic tagging lacks depth and is unconvincing. Greater depth in the coverage of Glasgow 218, Norwegian prisons and the general rehabilitative efforts of prisons in the UK would make this a more compelling response.

Synthesising information to structure and sustain lines of argument
This response was awarded **4 out of the 8 marks** available.

An overall conclusion does occur on page 23. The reasons to support the overall judgment are not explained or argued well. Overall, this essay is vague and lacks the necessary detail and depth.

Overall, this candidate's response was awarded **14 out of 30 marks.**

Part B
Question 9

You are researching crimes committed by gangs in the UK.

To what extent would covert participant observation be the best method for investigating this issue?

In your answer you should make reference to relevant examples (15 marks)

Analysis

This response was awarded **2 out of the 6 marks** available.

Some valid points of analysis are made in relation to the stated method of covert participation observation and focus groups. However, the candidate's line of argument predominately fixates on focus groups. Analysis is wide-sweeping and loosely linked to the scenario. However, this response fails to analyse both methods in a comparative manner. There is a lack of supporting evidence and many arguments made in relation to the methods presented are unsupported.

Evaluation (research methods)

This response was awarded **1 out of the 6 marks** available.

There is a clear argument presented that focus groups would be a more effective method compared to covert participant observation. There is moderately convincing commentary on the advantages of focus groups. Overall, there is a distinct lack of evaluative comment and supporting evidence.

Conclusion

This response was awarded **1 out of the 3 marks** available.

Concluding remarks restate the view that covert participation is not the best method for researching crimes.

Overall, this candidate's response was awarded **4 out of 15 marks**.

Question 10

To what extent can Source B be considered trustworthy? (15 marks)

Analysis of a source

This response was awarded **3 out of the 6 marks** available.

Accurate points about the trustworthiness of the source are made, eg the previous surveys carried out allow for comparisons to be made and the response rate increases validity. However, this candidate fails to fully explore the significance of weighting and their comment on interviews on page 22 is confused. The candidate fails to fully explain aspects of the source which affect its validity and reliability.

Evaluation of trustworthiness

This response was awarded **2 out of the 6 marks** available.

Accurate evaluation is made relating to the fact that the survey was carried out in 2014 which could therefore make the information dated. Acknowledgement that changes in Government and subsequent policy changes may affect crime is also creditable. Knowledge of social science research methodology is limited and therefore cannot be credited.

Conclusion

This response was awarded **1 out of the 3 marks** available.

The conclusion is summative and revisits points previously covered. Although an overall judgement of sorts is present, it is unconvincing.

Overall, this candidate's response was awarded **6 out of 15 marks**.

Total marks

In total this candidate was awarded **34 out of the 90 marks** available for the question paper component.

Commentary on candidate evidence

Candidate 7

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each question of this course assessment component.

Social Issues, Law and Order and Research Methods

Part A

Question 6: Understanding the criminal justice system

"Recent criminal justice issues show that aspects of current systems are failing."

Discuss, with reference to the UK/ Scotland **and** any other country/ countries you have studied. (30 marks)

Analysis

This response was awarded **8 out of the 8 marks** available.

This candidate's analysis is full and detailed and looks at several key factors within the Criminal Justice System (CJS) including reoffending rates, crime rates, prison overcrowding, policing, BAME experiences, punishment and rehabilitation approaches including multi-agency approaches. Contemporary supporting evidence from El Salvador, New Zealand, America and Canada are included in support of analysis across the response. The use of primary and secondary research gauged from prison visits and eg The Telegraph are integrated with the candidate's own arguments and views to elevate this to full marks for this element.

Comparison

This response was awarded **6 out of the 6 marks** available.

Points of comparison occur regularly across this response. Different international comparators are used to analyse, evaluate and evidence different key factors identified by the candidate, eg Scandinavia for custodial sentencing, El Salvador in relation to overcrowding, New Zealand for community sentencing as well as policing, USA for BAME experiences and Canada for multi-agency programmes. These comparisons support evaluation and show an authoritative understanding of the complex issue.

Evaluation

This response was awarded **8 out of the 8 marks** available.

Each factor covered in this response is related back to the question with evaluations made which are balanced and consider other viewpoints or approaches to criminal justice. These build to support the candidate's overall judgement by considering a range of global contexts to arrive at a judgement on effectiveness of criminal justice system.

Synthesising information to structure and sustain lines of argument

This response was awarded **8 out of the 8 marks** available.

The overall conclusion is drawn from the high quality analysis or evaluation presented in the main body of this essay. A balanced judgement is made that the current criminal justice system is effective to a *'fair extent'*. The final conclusion goes on to justify this position by asserting that community sentences, reoffending and custodial sentences are effective, whilst alternatively reasoning that overcrowding, leniency and brutality reduce the effectiveness of the criminal justice system.

Overall, this candidate's response was awarded **30 out of 30 marks.**

Question 7: Understanding criminal behaviour

"Criminal behaviour within societies cannot be explained by one single theory of crime."

Discuss, with reference to the UK/ Scotland **and** any other country/ countries you have studied. (30 marks)

Analysis

This response was awarded **8 out of the 8 marks** available.

This response's introduction clearly defines the key factors that are relevant to this question. Sociological, physiological and physiological causes, strain theory and a wide range of theorists including Cohen, Merton, Raine and Bandura are all covered. Analysis across this essay also considers issues related to the USA and Cuba and compares them in relation to criminal behaviour in Scotland and the UK.

Comparison

This response was awarded **6 out of the 6 marks** available.

This candidate effectively cites the over-representation of BAME groups in the American prison populous to accurately show similarities with the UK. Evidence from Cuba is also used persuasively to show links between alcohol, poverty and crime and is implicitly linked to alcohol associations with crime in Scotland.

American academic studies are also used to analyse the nature/nurture coverage. This response also references the origin of many of the empirical statistics contained.

Evaluation

This response was awarded **8 out of the 8** marks available.

A wide variety of factors and alternative factors which cause crime are looked at in this essay. Implicit evaluations are made in relation to the link between crime and poverty, unemployment, alcohol, educational attainment, cognitive development and learned behaviour. The evaluations presented shows this candidate has a clear and sophisticated understanding of the issue; although there is no singular cause of crime but several, many of these are interlinked.

Synthesising information to structure and sustain lines of argument

This response was awarded **8 out of the 8 marks** available.

The overall conclusion arrives at a balanced judgement on the complex causes of crime. Detailed reasons and evidence contained in the main body support the candidate's supposition that a combination of 'nature and nurture' issues cause crime.

Overall, this candidate's response was awarded **30 out of 30 marks.**

Part B

Question 9

You are researching crimes committed by gangs in the UK.

To what extent would covert participant observation be the best method for investigating this issue?

In your answer you should make reference to relevant examples. (15 marks)

Analysis

This response was awarded **6 out of the 6 marks** available.

This is a full response which identifies key aspects related to the use of covert participation including eye witness observations, ethnical issues of privacy and consent and self-incrimination. The candidate is aware of and refers to the scenario in question whilst also citing relevant contemporary exemplification of its use by the Metropolitan Police. An alternative method, official crime statistics, is also analysed and contrasted with the method of covet participant observation.

Evaluation (research methods)

This response was awarded **6 out of the 6 marks** available.

This response addresses the scenario of crime committed by gangs, contrasting covert participant observation with the limitations of police recorded crime and government statistics. A third method of focus groups is also related to its benefits in gathering information on public opinion of gang crime. The ethical issues of privacy and trust are dealt with effectively in relation to participant observation. Evaluative comments are made in the second paragraph about participant observation in a balanced manner. The candidate's own alternative methods are also discussed critically.

Conclusion

This response was awarded **3 out of the 3 marks** available.

The candidate makes a clear judgement that official statistics are more effective than covert participant observation. This is supported by rejecting covert participant observation for ethical issues and reasoning official statistics are more reliable and trustworthy.

Overall, this candidate's response was awarded **15 out of 15 marks**.

Question 10

To what extent can Source B be considered trustworthy? (15 marks)

Analysis of a source

This response was awarded **6 out of the 6 marks** available.

A wide range of factors affecting source trustworthiness including qualitative and quantitative information, evidence over time, sampling and survey methodology are all analysed. Evidence is drawn from the source to support analysis and is explicitly referred to. Within the response there is clear evidence which shows the candidate's awareness of the research methodology of surveys.

Evaluation of trustworthiness

This response was awarded **6 out of the 6 marks** available.

The response comments clearly on strengths and weaknesses of the source. Alternative approaches to improve the source are commented on which relate to further inclusion of data over a wider time frame and international comparator data.

Conclusion

This response was awarded **3 out of the 3 marks** available.

The candidate offers a balanced judgement on the trustworthiness of the source. This is based on analysis which suggests comparison over time and across businesses makes it useful whilst the inability to include all business reduces the source's trustworthiness.

Overall, this candidate's response was awarded **15 out of 15 marks**.

Total marks

In total this candidate was awarded **90 out of the 90 marks** available for the question paper component.