

Candidate 1 evidence

10.

Source B presents a news article which is the result of a covert observation research study researching the security robustness of British prisons. Overall, the source is mostly trustworthy.

Firstly, the source may be considered trustworthy since it comes from The Times, which is a reputable Newspaper company who hires only the most talented, intellectual journalists, meaning that the journalist who wrote this article, will have been highly likely to have successfully built a nuanced view on the issue he was investigating. Additionally, the source was published in 2024, which was recent enough to say that it could be reflective of contemporary circumstances. This makes it more trustworthy since the information in the source is more likely to be true to reality at the moment. However, it could be argued that this isn't true since this was the first year that a new political party came into power, meaning that since then, some things in the prison system may have changed. Another factor which makes the source more trustworthy is the fact that it was conducted by Paul Morgan-Bentley, who is said to be the "Head of Investigagations", highlighting the fact that he is highly likely to be experienced in analysing different investigations and also conducting them himself. This makes it more trustworthy since it's highly likely that the source is able to give the reader an informed, balanced view of the issue being discussed, with a lot more depth than someone who didn't have as much experience as him. Another thing that makes the source more trustworthy is the graph which contains data collected from HM Prison and Probation Service. This is a service which is closely connected to prisons and would certainly have easy access to information regarding the issue of security within them. Therefore, it becomes more trustworthy since the statistics used in the graph are highly likely to reflect the true circumstances of staffing experience within

prisons. Lastly, one more factor which makes the source more accurate is the fact that the website is linked at the bottom of the source, which gives the reader the chance to investigate the issue further and build a better understanding of what is being discussed and ultimately build a clearer picture of it. Indeed, it was Ugo Trivilato who said that methods used which allow researchers to gain data that leads to more data is the most effective of them all. One other thing that makes the source trustworthy is the fact that a covert observation was used, which means that the information provided would be highly valid since they are so effective in highlighting the true behaviour and circumstances of the issues investigated.

However, there are a few factors which may make one consider the source to be slightly less trustworthy. Firstly, the source is "adapted", meaning that it may have information manipulated within it, or there could be rather a lot of information excluded from the article. This makes the source less trustworthy since it ultimately means the reader may not have the ability to gain a full nuanced, informed view of the issue of security robustness within prisons from the source alone. However, it could be argued that this discrepancy is offset by the link provided to the website. Another flaw in the source is the fact that a statement from the MoJ was used, saying "all jail staff and visitors were 'regularly and randomly searched'". This makes the source less trustworthy since it comes from a biased source which wouldn't be likely to be entirely honest, especially considering the fact that it contradicts findings from the covert observation study which contrastingly found that "staff said there were 'very rarely' proper searches in the early morning". This makes it less trustworthy since it means the source slightly lacks in validity. However, it could be argued that this actually makes the source more valid since it gives the reader a better insight into the views held by the people running the prison, who are responsible for the robustness of security within prisons. Indeed, Mark Weinstein said that the great advantage of studies such as covert observation is that they encourage natural behaviour which leads to ordinary conversation and a reflection of their true personality. Another flaw in the source is that "The Times newspaper uses a paywall and requires a paid subscription before any online content can be viewed". This makes the source less trustworthy since readers are actually often going to be blocked from further analysing the source since they are forced to pay in order to see it. This makes it less trustworthy since it's certainly going to be unavailable to certain economically deprived individuals.

Overall, the source is conclusively trustworthy since the majority of data provided within it comes from reputable sources. Though some of its content is biased, it successfully offers a balanced view of the issue of security within prisons. Through using covert observation,

the investigator was able to build a realistic view of the issue being researched, meaning that during his investigation experience, there would have been a very low rate of dishonesty throughout his research. While some would say that the paywall stops individuals from being able to further investigate the issue, the website is still provided and it able to be further investigated and interrogated by organisations and academics. Additionally, the source is contemporary and therefore reflective of todays circumstances, meaning that overall, the information isn't just accurate, but also true to reality today. Therefore, in conclusion, Source B is mostly trustworthy.

Candidate 2 evidence

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10	When analysing the trustworthiness of Source B multiple things need to be looked at. It has strengths like relevant up to date, auras name and where info came from is listed. However the Times doesn't have to remain impartial and the source is adapted from the website. Overall however Source B can be considered trustworthy to a moderate extent.	
	One way in which the source can be considered trustworthy is that the date of the source is shown and is up to date with relevance to the subject, so information can still be taken. However it doesn't mention when the undercover ~~to~~ research was carried out before it was published so there may have been a long delay. To make the source more trustworthy it should state when research was carried out to ensure there is nothing missing from when carried out to publishing as it could then be irrelevant data. Despite this though the source uses the most up to date primary data they have which keeps the source relevant and valid. A	

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downside however is that it mentions the source has been adapted so it may be unreliable as we are unsure how much of the source was changed. But they have cited the originals so it would be possible to check the accuracy of the source with the original data, so overall the source is trustworthy.

The source can be seen as trustworthy as the name of the writer is listed along with his credentials allowing us to be able to read up on him but also see that he is high up and will produce trustworthy work. However the source is from the Times newspaper which can take a bias side so doesn't have to remain impartial which decreases the reliability as they may be producing biased work. However the trustworthiness of the source is high as the chart they used is from HM Revenue and Customs a well respected and tied to the government establishment that will have to produce accurate data which increases the reliability of the source. Due

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	to the fact that the times uses a paywall it may be less trustworthy as we can't check if the adapted version is missing key data as you would have to pay to have access to it. To improve the trustworthiness of the source I suggest removing the pay wall to ensure people can see the original source to check nothing has been changed. Overall however it is clear to see they have used reputable sources and a writer of high credentials so improves reliability and validity of the source.	
	In conclusion Source B is a largely trustworthy source to a moderate extent. Despite the times possibly being biased and not impartial and the source being adapted the source is still trustworthy. This is due to the fact it has been published recently using up to date and relevant data from reputable sources like HM Prison and Probation services and written by someone with the right capabilities. Overall Source B should be considered a trustworthy source.	