

# Commentary on candidate evidence

The candidate evidence has achieved the following marks for each question of question paper 2.

## Candidate 1

### Question 1: Conclusions

#### Conclusion 1: The link between deprivation and drug deaths

The candidate has given a valid conclusion: 'the greater the level of deprivation in an area, the greater the number of drug deaths' – no marks awarded at this point.

They have evidenced this by using Source A: 'drug deaths are 18 times higher...least deprived ones.' **(1 mark awarded)**.

This is further supported by evidence from Source B: 'in 2021 the number of drug deaths...significantly higher than the drug deaths in quantile 5 areas ...with approximately 20 drug deaths per million people.' The candidate was **awarded 2 marks** for this sentence as they included evaluative comment alongside the evidence.

The candidate has provided a third piece of evidence from Source D which would have been credit worthy in isolation. (Please note that all four sources must be used across the answer to achieve full marks): 'This is further supported by Source D which shows ...444 deaths per million.' (This would have been awarded 1 mark).

Overall, this conclusion has achieved the maximum **3 marks**.

#### Conclusion 2: The age of drug death victims over time

The candidate has given a valid conclusion: 'My 2nd conclusion is that over time, as time increases, the age of drug death victims are also increasing.'

They have evidenced this by using Source A: 'Recent trends have shown a change in ...still work to be done'. This was **awarded 1 mark**.

This is further supported by evidence from Source B: 'This is supported by Source B which shows that in 2011, the average age of drug related deaths was 37.9 years, but this increased significantly to 43.6 years in 2021'. The candidate was **awarded 2 marks** for this as they have provided evidence and an evaluative comment by using the phrase 'increased significantly'.

The final sentence 'This ultimately shows that ...with drug addiction issues' was not awarded any more marks.

Overall, this conclusion achieved the maximum **3 marks** for using two pieces of evidence and an evaluative comment.

### **Conclusion 3: The impact of drug consumption rooms on drug deaths**

The candidate has given a valid conclusion: 'My third conclusion is that drug consumption rooms had a positive impact on drug deaths. The rooms have lowered drug deaths.'

They have evidenced this by using Source A: 'Drug consumption rooms are supervised by ...Evidence from other European countries suggests they would help save lives.' **(1 mark awarded)**.

This is further supported in Source C and Source A where the candidate uses both sources to compare drug deaths of countries with drug consumption rooms to Scotland: 'This is backed up in Source C which shows that countries with drug consumption rooms ...whereas in Source A it was revealed that Scotland had over 250 drug deaths per million people in 2021'. **(2 marks awarded)**.

The candidate makes a valid evaluative comment at the end but has already achieved the 3 marks. Overall, this conclusion achieved **3 marks**.

### **Overall conclusion**

The candidate has given a valid overall conclusion: 'My overall conclusion is that Scotland's drug death problems are increasing to a large extent over the recent years.'

They have evidenced this by using Source B: 'Source B shows that the number of drug deaths in quintile 1 area have increased from around 250 per million in 2011 compared to approximately 650 per million in 2021'. **(1 mark awarded)**.

This is further supported with two pieces of evidence from Source A: 'Furthermore, Source A reveals that 1330 people tragically lost their lives to drugs in Scotland in 2021 ...worsening in Scotland'. **(1 mark awarded)**.

**The candidate was awarded 10 out of 10 marks for this question.**

## **Question 2: Objectivity**

**To what extent is it accurate to state that traditional media platforms are the main providers of news for people in the UK?**

### **Paragraph 1**

In the first paragraph, the candidate has provided evidence from Source A to support the statement: 'Traditional media platforms – newspapers, television and radio – have long been the preferred source of news'. **(1 mark awarded)**.

The second sentence of the paragraph did not gain any marks as it is referring to trustworthiness of new media. Any reference to lack of trust in news media is not credit worthy throughout this answer.

### Paragraph 2

The candidate continues to provide evidence in support of the statement. The first sentence was awarded **1 mark**: 'Most people watch television every day...leadership debate'. The candidate backs this up with information from Source C and was awarded **1 mark**.

### Paragraph 3

The candidate provides information from Source B to support the statement and was **awarded 1 mark**: 'It is accurate as Source B shows ...platform for news.'

### Paragraph 4

The candidate now provides evidence to oppose the statement. **1 mark** was awarded for the use of Source A: 'However according to recent surveys ...a number that grows every year.'

Further evidence is provided from Source D and **1 mark** was awarded. Although the two pieces of evidence are not linked to each other they are both awarded 1 mark each: 'While the average person ...two minutes among young people.'

### Paragraph 5

The candidate continues to provide evidence to oppose the statement. **1 mark** was awarded for the use of Source A: 'Printed newspapers have become one...main news source.' The candidate links with evidence from Source B and was awarded **1 mark**: 'This is backed up in Source B which shows that the lowest percentage ...as platform for news.'

The candidate then uses evidence from Source D but this is awarded zero marks: 'It is not accurate as Guardian newspaper daily sales ...was much larger.' The maximum 8 marks for source use has been reached.

### Overall judgement on extent of accuracy

The candidate makes a judgement on the extent of accuracy and can therefore access the final 2 marks: 'Overall, it is accurate to a small extent ...'

Evidence is provided from Source D to support this judgement and was awarded **1 mark**: 'Source D shows that annual sales of newspapers ...last decade.' This is supported by evidence from Sources A and B and was awarded **1 mark**: 'This is supported in Source A which shows that the highest percentage ...a new media for news source.'

Any candidate who uses an absolute judgement (fully inaccurate/fully accurate) should not be credited when marking the final overall comment. Judgements

such as 'to a certain extent' or 'partly' should be awarded up to 1 mark if they are justified.

**The candidate was awarded 10 out of 10 marks for this question.**

### **Question 3: Source reliability**

#### **Source A**

The candidate has made the following judgement with regards to the reliability of the source: 'Source A is reliable to a large extent.'

**1 mark** was awarded for the reference to You Gov: 'a highly professional polling organisation ...reliability of their work.'

**1 mark** was awarded for discussion of the sample size: 'Furthermore, the sample size is large and representative ...diversity of the population.'

The candidate has achieved the full 2 marks but the final four lines about date would not be credit worthy anyway as the candidate refers to the survey as being recent.

#### **Source B**

The candidate has made a judgement with regards to the reliability of the source: 'Source B is reliable to a large extent.'

**1 mark** was awarded for the first two sentences: 'it is from a broadsheet newspaper ...in depth coverage thus increasing the reliability of Source B', specifically the 'thorough research' comment.

**1 mark** was awarded for the section from 'Furthermore broadsheet newspapers will employ ...is of high quality.' (This section was worth 2 marks on its own but had achieved a single mark earlier.)

The final comment about bias would have required more development to also have been credit worthy.

#### **Source C**

The candidate makes a judgement with regards to the reliability of the source: 'the reliability of the source is limited.'

**1 mark** was awarded for the second sentence: 'Pressure groups all have an agenda to change the opinion of the reader ...influence the government.'

**1 mark** was awarded for: 'However larger pressure groups ...limited extent.'

**Overall judgement**

The candidate makes an overall judgement on the most reliable source and provides an explanation: 'Overall Source A is the most reliable ...on all demographics.' **(1 mark awarded)**.

The candidate continues to rank the other two sources making a judgement on the most reliable and was awarded **1 mark** for the rest of the paragraph. (All three sources are compared): 'Source B is more reliable than Source C.'

**The candidate was awarded 8 out of 8 marks for this question.**

**Overall, the candidate was awarded 28 out of 28 marks for this question paper.**

## Candidate 2

### Question 1: Conclusions

#### Conclusion 1: The link between deprivation and drug deaths

The candidate has given a conclusion at the end of the first paragraph: 'Overall, the more deprived the area, the higher the drug death rates by far.' They have evidenced this by linking evidence from Source A and Source B: **(2 marks awarded)**. They have also made an attempt at an evaluation **(1 mark)**.

Overall, this conclusion was awarded **3 marks** as there is a valid conclusion plus two pieces of valid evidence and an evaluative comment.

#### Conclusion 2: The age of drug death victims over time

The candidate has given a conclusion at the end of the paragraph: 'Overall the age has risen over the space of 10 years.' They have evidenced this by using two relevant pieces of information from sources B and A – **1 mark awarded for each**. They have not given a third piece of evidence or made an attempt at an evaluation.

Overall, this conclusion was awarded **2 marks** for a valid conclusion plus two pieces of valid evidence.

#### Conclusion 3: The impact of drug consumption rooms on drug deaths

The candidate has given a conclusion at the end of the paragraph: 'Therefore drug consumption rooms seem to have a positive impact.' They have evidenced this by using Source C to comment on low numbers of drug deaths in countries with DCRs (they write D but mean C) and compare this to Source D and comments that drug death numbers are 'huge'. **(2 marks awarded)** (Note that although no specific statistics are quoted, the candidate has clearly compared two sources and made judgements about the figures.)

Overall, this conclusion was awarded **2 marks** for a valid conclusion plus evaluation comparing and commenting on valid evidence from two sources.

#### Overall conclusion

The candidate has given a conclusion: 'Overall Scotland's drug death problem over recent years has risen'.

They have evidenced this by using the 1330 figure and the 250 per million statistic from Source A (which in themselves show the problem to be bad but not necessarily to have 'risen') – **0 marks awarded**.

The last part of the response refers to the rise in the overall Scotland figure from Source B and this was awarded **1 mark**.

Overall, this conclusion achieved **1 mark** for a valid conclusion plus one piece of valid evidence.

**The candidate was awarded 8 out of 10 marks for this question.**

## Question 2: Objectivity

**To what extent is it accurate to state that traditional media platforms are the main providers of news for people in the UK?**

The candidate has given the following evidence in support of the statement, quoting from Source A: 'Television remains the most popular news source among the population with most using it as their main platform.' **(1 mark awarded)**. The candidate tries to back this up by using the '7.3 million' figure from Source A. Although this shows popularity, this figure does not show that TV is the main provider so not further marks were awarded.

In the next paragraph the candidate successfully gives two pieces of evidence from different parts of Source A, to oppose the view. The candidate was **awarded 2 marks**.

In the next paragraph the candidate switches back to support the view giving evidence from Source C and from Source D, ie evidence about the popularity of BBC and ITV and about the amount of TV news watched by over 65's. The candidate was **awarded 2 marks**.

In the final paragraph, the response moves to Source B to provide comment on two pieces of evidence concerning the popularity of TV, arguing that older people still watch TV (93%) but its only 61% for a younger group. **(2 marks awarded)**.

It may have been the case that the candidate intended this paragraph to be their overall judgment on the extent of accuracy. However, as their wording is slightly ambiguous in that they refer to young people rather than 'people' as a whole, the marks were awarded as part of the 8 available for support/oppose evidence.

### Overall judgement on extent of accuracy

This was not completed so 0 marks awarded.

**The candidate was awarded 7 out of 10 marks for this question.**

Any candidate who uses an absolute judgement (fully inaccurate/fully accurate) should not be credited when marking the final overall comment. Judgements such as 'to a certain extent' or 'partly' should be awarded up to 1 mark if they are justified.

### Question 3: Source reliability

#### Source A

The candidate has made the following judgement with regards to the reliability of this source: 'Source A is somewhat reliable ...' They have justified their comment by saying the date is recent and the website is professional, but no marks are awarded for this. The candidate also claims that 6,226 is a small sample and again, receives no marks. The candidate was awarded 0 marks for their Source A response.

#### Source B

The candidate has made the following judgement with regards to the reliability of this source: 'Source B is somewhat reliable'. They have attempted to justify their comment, but their justification tries to cover both sides of the judgement but fails to expand sufficiently for any credit. The candidate was awarded 0 marks for their Source B response.

#### Source C

The candidate has made the following judgement with regards to the reliability of this source: 'Somewhat reliable'. They have justified their comment with the following:

- ◆ 'the date is recent' (no marks awarded)
- ◆ 'is a pressure group, therefor will pressure you into thinking a certain way which isn't reliable as its one sided.' **(1 mark awarded)**.

The candidate has made the following comment: 'Overall Source B is the most reliable ...as its a pressure group'. They have justified it with the following comments: 'is trustworthy and is still in date compared to Source A which is based on peoples opinion that could be biased' (no marks awarded).

**The candidate was awarded 1 out of 8 marks for this question.**

**Overall, the candidate was awarded 16 out of 28 marks for this question paper.**



## Candidate 3

### Question 3: Source reliability

#### Source A

The candidate makes the judgment that the source is made more reliable because YouGov are well respected and trusted by the public due to the fact they produce unbiased information. **(1 mark awarded)**.

They further the argument that this source is reliable by arguing that the 1000 threshold required for participants was passed meaning it will give a large variety and a good spread of views. **(1 mark awarded)**.

#### Source B

The candidate makes a confused judgement that the source is unreliable/reliable as newspapers tend to be biased. They do not expand this sufficiently for any marks to be awarded.

The candidate then goes on to argue that the source is reliable as you would be able to check the credentials of the author to ensure she is known for producing trusted and reliable information. **(1 mark awarded)**.

#### Source C

The candidate makes the judgement that the source is unreliable as pressure groups are biased but develops this by saying this means you will only get their opinion. **(1 mark awarded)**.

The candidate then argues that despite this, the source could be reliable as they will have experts researching their information, meaning that despite it being one sided, it is reliable. **(1 mark awarded)**.

#### Most reliable source

The candidate has made the judgement that Source A is the most reliable source. They argue that this is because it is highly decorated source which has high levels of respect and compares this to Source B which is a newspaper that will show bias, making Source A more reliable. **(1 mark awarded)**.

They then compare Source A to Source C, arguing that YouGov provides a wide spread of information with lots of opinions, compared to the one-sided nature of a pressure group. **(1 mark awarded)**.

**The candidate was awarded 7 out of 10 marks for this question.**

## Question 1: Conclusions

### Conclusion 1: The link between deprivation and drug deaths

The candidate states their conclusion at the end of the paragraph, which is that the more deprived areas have higher drug deaths. They have evidenced this by using Source A and refer to the fact that drug deaths are 18 times higher in the 700 most deprived post codes. **(1 mark awarded)**.

They have used Source B, accurately stating that deaths in quintile 1 are much higher compared to quintile 5. **(1 mark awarded)**.

Source C is then used to show that local authorities with the lowest SIMD have the highest drug deaths. **(1 mark awarded)**.

### Conclusion 3: The impact of drug consumption rooms on drug deaths

The candidate has given a conclusion at the start and at the end, either of which can be accepted as valid. At the start they claim that consumption rooms have had a positive impact and at the end conclude that with drug rooms, the number of deaths are lower than where there are none. Both are arguing the same point. They have evidenced this by using Source A to state that they help to reduce drug deaths. **(1 mark awarded)**.

The candidate then links to Source C where they accurately summarise the information to show that countries with drug rooms have a significantly lower number of drug deaths per million than Scotland, which is an accurate comparison. They then go on to provide further detail by referencing evidence from Source A, stating that drug deaths were 250 per million. **(2 marks awarded)**.

### Conclusion 2: The age of drug death victims over time

The candidate has given an accurate conclusion by stating that age of drug death victims is increasing. Evidence from Source B is used to show that there has been an increase from 2011-2013. They then provide further comment on the increase from 2016-2018. **(1 mark awarded)**.

They then continue to use Source B by providing statistics as well as an evaluative comment that there has been a steady increase. **(1 mark awarded)**.

### Overall conclusion

The candidate has given an incorrect conclusion that the problem is decreasing in Scotland. **(0 marks awarded)**.

**The candidate was awarded 8 out of 10 marks for this question.**

## Question 2: Objectivity

**To what extent is it accurate to state that traditional media platforms are the main providers of news for people in the UK?**

The candidate begins their answer by stating the view is accurate. They use Source B to show that television had the highest percentage of people who use it for news. The second part of the paragraph is confused and is not awarded any marks. **(1 mark awarded)**.

They then link to Source C to strengthen this view and again state that television is the most common news source, even though internet/social media are second. **(1 mark awarded)**.

The candidate then uses Source D to show the view is inaccurate, as younger people are using internet more and television less. They then make a good link to the end of Source D to strengthen the view, stating that the Guardian have seen a growth in their website sales. **(2 marks awarded)**.

The candidate then returns to argue that the view can be seen as accurate. They provide evidence from Source A, which shows that television remains the most popular news source. **(1 mark awarded)**.

They then make an unsubstantiated claim that Facebook and Twitter are growing as the days go by, which is not supported from evidence in the sources. (0 marks awarded).

### Overall judgement on extent of accuracy

The candidate has made the judgement that, 'The source is largely accurate' (they do say 'source' when they mean view, but this wouldn't stop them accessing the marks for this part of the question). This is justified by the candidate as they state that television has the highest percentage compared to social media. This is a limited use of the source evidence from Source B and Source C but is an accurate summary. **(1 mark awarded)**.

The rest of the conclusion references the growth in Facebook and Twitter again which is not supported from evidence in the sources and makes comment on the lack of trust in these due to fake news, which is not relevant to the question. (0 marks).

Any candidate who uses an absolute judgement (fully inaccurate/fully accurate) should not be credited when marking the final overall comment. Judgements such as 'to a certain extent' or 'partly' should be awarded up to 1 mark if they are justified.

**The candidate was awarded 6 out of 10 marks for this question.**

**Overall, the candidate was awarded 21 out of 28 marks for this question paper.**

## Candidate 4

### Question 1: Conclusions

#### Conclusion 1: The link between deprivation and drug deaths

The valid conclusion comes at the end. Source A is used accurately twice and is then correctly linked to Source B. The information from Source B was accepted as the highest death rate had been identified to make the point. **(3 marks awarded)**.

#### Conclusion 2: The age of drug death victims over time

The valid conclusion comes at the end. The candidate makes accurate use of Source A, linked to Source B. **(2 marks awarded)**.

#### Conclusion 3: The impact of drug consumption rooms on drug deaths

There is no clear conclusion made, although evidence used could have been correct. **(0 marks awarded)**.

#### Overall conclusion

An accurate conclusion comes at the end. There is accurate use of Source A but inaccurate (candidate states the death rates are at 600 million) use of Source B. **(1 mark awarded)**.

No credit should be given in this question when a candidate does not recognise that death rates etc are 'per million' and answers in term of real numbers.

**The candidate was awarded 6 out of 10 marks for this question.**

### Question 2: Objectivity

**To what extent is it accurate to state that traditional media platforms are the main providers of news for people in the UK?**

#### Paragraph 1

Correct use of evidence from Source A **(1 mark awarded)**. This is linked to Source D with further correct use of evidence to oppose. **(1 mark awarded)**. **1 mark** was awarded for the evaluative comment that follows.

#### Paragraph 2

The candidate then uses Source A correctly to further oppose the statement and gains **1 mark** and continues to link correct evidence from Source D and gains a further **1 mark**.

**Paragraph 3**

The candidate uses Source D correctly and gains **1 mark**. The reference to Source B which follows is incorrect.

The final two pieces of evidence from Sources B and D are correct and gain a **mark each. (2 marks awarded)**.

The overall conclusion gains no marks as it makes no quantitative judgement and presents no supporting evidence.

**The candidate was awarded 8 out of 10 marks for this question.**

**Question 3: Source reliability****Source A**

**1 mark** was given for reference to 'more than one point of view'/the survey size. The comment on the date was not credited. It would need to have explained more clearly that it was accurate at the time of the events in question. A clearer explanation of this would have merited a mark.

**Source B**

A mark was given for trust in 'journalistic standards. **(1 mark awarded)**.

**Source C**

No marks were given as justification of bias required.

No overall conclusion was given.

**The candidate was awarded 2 out of 8 marks for this question.**

**Overall, the candidate was awarded 16 out of 28 marks for this question paper.**