Commentary on candidate evidence

Assessors awarded the candidate evidence the following marks for each assignment.

Candidate 1

Is gender inequality still a problem in the UK?

Section A – Research topic/issue

The candidate has clearly identified an appropriate Modern Studies topic which relates to social inequality. The candidate also uses this section to state a hypothesis and three aims for their research.

Section B – Research methods

The candidate was awarded **6/10 marks** in this section because the first source is stated as the BBC. Their research sheet has 'BBC Bitesize' and its URL listed as Source C. They attempt to explain why they chose this method by writing 'it had relevant information about my topic' but this is too vague, without any reference to their aims or hypothesis, and was not given any marks. The candidate gives their first strength of the BBC and states that 'the information is balanced meaning there is no agenda behind it. It aims to inform the audience rather than influence making the information more reliable' - this was awarded **1 mark**.

Their next paragraph gives a second strength of their method and states that 'the articles provided more links. This means I can do further research on my topic and improve my understanding as I can find more facts.' This was not given marks because Bitesize is not the same as BBC news articles.

The candidate then attempts to give a weakness of their method by stating that 'BBC articles don't have a date. This means that some articles could be over two months old making it unreliable and outdated as views could have changed.' This was considered generic with misunderstanding about the purpose of the BBC Bitesize source they listed on the research sheet. No marks awarded here.

Their second weakness and the suggested improvement were vague and inaccurate and not given any credit.

The candidate then goes on to discuss another method of research – survey, Source F.

The candidate justifies the appropriateness of the research method and states ‘I chose to use a survey because I wanted to find out other peoples opinions on gender inequality’ - this was awarded **1 mark**.

They give a potential strength of this method and states that using Google Forms meant that data was in a pie chart which saved a lot of time as ‘I was able to quickly gather information on other peoples opinions as the data was easy to interpret as it was easy to read’ - this was awarded **1 mark**.

They attempt to give another strength by stating that they ‘used a lot of open ended questions such as “explain your answer”.’ The candidate does not develop this any further to explain why this would be a strength and no marks are awarded here.

The candidate then gives a weakness of their method and states that the survey was ‘only made for people in my class who are about the same age group, so its not a variety of ages/views’ - this was awarded **1 mark**.

Another weakness is stated as ‘a lot of my friends completed the survey and they asked me what I wanted the results to be. This made the data inaccurate as it was not their true opinion’ - this was awarded **1 mark**.

The candidate then gives an improvement to their survey by stating that they would share their survey ‘with all their friends and family so its not just people around the same age group, and I would ensure that they put answers based solely on their true opinions’ - this was awarded **1 mark**.

Section C – Research findings

The candidate was awarded **6/6 marks** in this section. The candidate clearly separates their findings into three paragraphs - one for each of their aims.

They give a finding from Source A about the pay gap decreasing from 7.5% to 7% - this was awarded **1 mark**. The next sentence gives evidence about the difference in employment rate between men and women - this was awarded **1 mark**.

They state a finding from Source B about women making up 40% of MPs and 30% of Lords - this was awarded **1 mark**.

The candidate then gives their findings for Aim 2: Government responses to gender inequality. They give evidence from Source C about the UK Government passing the Equality Act in 2010 - this was awarded **1 mark**.

They give evidence from Source D about Glasgow City Council agreeing to pay £770m to settle equal pay claims - this was awarded **1 mark**.

They give evidence from Source E stating that 'children aged 3-5 year old can get up to 1,140 hours of funded early learning and childcare a year'- this was awarded **1 mark**.

Maximum marks for this section have already been achieved however the candidate would have also got marks for the below.

The candidate then gives findings for Aim 3: public opinion.

The candidate gives evidence from Source F, their survey, and provides two pieces of evidence – one about the percentage of people who think the government is doing enough and another about the percentage of people who think there is complete gender equality - this was awarded **2 marks**.

There are 8 findings in total, none of which were considered conclusions.

Section D – Research conclusions

The candidate was awarded **4/4 marks** in this section. The candidate concludes that 'Gender inequality is still a problem in the UK' - this was awarded **1 mark**.

The candidate makes a conclusion that the pay gap has decreased by 0.5% - this was awarded **1 mark**. This candidate develops this point with evidence repeated from findings so the next sentence is not given marks. The third sentence makes a

basic conclusion that ‘Women are also under-represented as women make up less than half of the MPs’ - this was awarded **1 mark**.

The candidate has a paragraph on their conclusions for Aim 2. The evidence provided was considered a repetition of findings from Section C so no marks are awarded here.

The candidate makes a conclusion for Aim 3 and states that ‘the majority of people think that the government isn’t doing enough to tackle gender inequality’ – this was awarded **1 mark**.

Maximum marks for this section have already been achieved however the candidate would have also got marks for the below.

1 mark was awarded for their conclusion that ‘People also think gender inequality is a problem due to several reasons such as sexism or women needing to take care of their children.’

The candidate makes two recommendations in their final paragraph. They state that ‘the government should make maternity leave more equal for women and men as women are entitled to 52 weeks of leave, while most men are entitled to 2 weeks of leave’ – this was awarded **1 mark**. They also state that ‘the government should make both maternity and paternity leave 6 months so its equal and so women can go back to work faster’– this was awarded **1 mark**.

There were 7 conclusions in total, so the candidate easily achieves full marks here.

Overall, the candidate was awarded **16/20 marks**.

Candidate 2

Underdevelopment in Africa

Section A – Research topic/issue

The candidate has clearly identified an appropriate Modern Studies topic which relates to International Issues – Development in Africa. The candidate also uses this section to state a hypothesis and three clear aims for their research.

Section B – Research methods

The candidate was awarded **10 marks** in this section because they begin by referring to their first method of research - a survey. This is Source 1 – class survey shown in the research sheet.

They state that they chose this method as it ‘allowed me to gain specific answers i needed for research’ - this was awarded no marks as considered too vague and lacking detail. The candidate then states that the survey ‘allowed me to ask open and closed questions. This allowed me to get in depth and detailed answers but also generic, blunt answers that were straight to the point and relevant to my research’ - this was awarded **1 mark**.

The candidate then states ‘Another advantage is i got to ask people who have learned and studied the topic of underdevelopment in africa. This ensures i am getting educated answers and leads to my finding being more reliable.’ - this was awarded **1 mark**.

They give another advantage of their survey and ‘I was able to gather first hand data. This allows me to know that the results are honest and havent bee tampered with’ - this was awarded one mark. They continue ‘It also allows me to ask specific question I could not find the answers to on the internet’ – this was awarded **1 mark**.

The candidate then gives a disadvantage of their method and states that ‘it’s extremely time consuming. This requires a lot of effort’ - this section was not awarded any marks as was considered confused. Another disadvantage is provided ‘i asked people of the same age group to answer my survey. This means my answer may be

very similar as everyone who participated was at the same place in life and shared similar opinions'- this was awarded **1 mark**.

They continue their disadvantages at the end of Section B and state 'it is unable to reach a large demographic. This means that information i gain lacks experience as i was unable to gain answers from people who have experience of living in africa' – this was awarded **1 mark**.

The candidate then goes on to discuss another method of research - a website which is Source 2 on their research sheet. They state why they used the website by stating 'it allows me to get professional opinions and data after they carry out intensive research, increasing reliability' - this was awarded **1 mark**. They state that 'it's quick and easily accessible. This allows me to gain information fast' - this section was considered vague and was not awarded any marks. Another advantage is given when they state that the website 'it's very often updated and modified to the current state. This ensures the information that I am gathering is as accurate as possible and relevant to the current state of African countries.' Although poorly expressed, this was thought worthy of credit and was awarded **1 mark**.

They continue with a final advantage 'the information on my website was specific to African countries. This allows me to know the statistics and data i gather isn't mixed with other countries and ensures the information i am gathering is accurate and specific to African countries' - this was awarded **1 mark**.

The candidate then gives a disadvantage of their method by stating that the information may be biased. 'This is because the website used was trying to push an agenda and convince us of their point - Education is the leading cause of underdevelopment in africa. This means the data on the website might no be fully reliable' - this was awarded **1 mark**.

Another disadvantage is given 'specific information might be difficult to find. This is because the website contain large quantities of information and you may be unable to find answers and data you are looking for. This may lead to you finding irrelevant information' - this was awarded **1 mark**.

They end with their final disadvantage as ‘the website I chose was a charity. This can lead to information being tampered and exaggerated, as there main goal is to gain donations for there cause. This can mean that some information isnt true and thus unreliable.’ This was thought to be a repeat of previous information about the organisation having its own agenda. In addition, on further investigation of the website, it was discovered that the organisation was not a charity and that there was no mention of donations – no marks awarded.

Section C – Research findings

The candidate was awarded **6 marks** in this section because they clearly separate their findings into three paragraphs - one for each of their aims.

Paragraph 1 relates to Aim 1 - To find out about the leading cause of underdevelopment in Africa. They give a finding from their survey that 80% of people believe that lack of education was the leading cause of underdevelopment in Africa - this was awarded **1 mark**. They continue by stating a very large number of children in African countries do not attend school- this was awarded **1 mark**. They continue by stating 20 million children do not attend school in Nigeria – **1 mark** was awarded.

Paragraph 2 relates to Aim 2 - To find out why a lack of education can lead to underdevelopment in Africa. They state ‘the poverty cycele has an effect on lack of education in africa.’ - this was awarded **1 mark**. They state. ‘This is because children are often forced into work at young ages to provide for their familys and cannot move into higher education.’- this was awarded **1 mark**. They continue by stating ‘80 million children are affected by poverty in Zambia’. On investigation this was found to be inaccurate so awarded no marks.

Paragraph 3 relates to Aim 3 - To find out what other causes of underdevelopment are in Africa. They state ‘20% of people believe conflict to be the leading cause of underdevelopment in Africa’ – this was awarded **1 mark**.

Maximum marks for this section have already been achieved however the candidate would have also got marks for the below.

They continue ‘lots of children are affected and harmed by conflict in Africa’ – this was awarded **1 mark**. They continue by giving an example that 65% of children in

Africa have been affected by conflict. This was investigated and found to be inaccurate so no marks were awarded.

Section D – Research conclusions (candidate writes Source D)

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** for this section. The candidate concludes by stating the majority believe a lack of education is the reason for underdevelopment. This is awarded **1 mark**. They continue, ‘This is because african countries do not develop if the younger generation are unable to get proper education to have good quality jobs.’ - this was awarded **1 mark**. Then they state ‘80% of people believed that a lack of education was the leading cause and Source 2 shows that 20 million children do not attend school in nigeria’. This was thought to be repetition from findings so was awarded no marks awarded here. The second paragraph was thought to be all repetition from findings so received no marks.

In their third paragraph, the candidate states ‘underdevelopment in africa is people believed conflict was another leading cause.’ This was awarded no marks as was thought to be repetition from the findings section. They continue ‘This is because it prevents government from bringing new buildings and stops parents from sending children to school for fear of safety’ – this was awarded **1 mark**.

The rest of the paragraph is repetition from findings so gains no marks.

Overall, the candidate was awarded **19/20 marks**.