Commentary on candidate evidence

The candidate evidence has achieved the following marks for each element of the assignment.

Candidate 1

Section A – Research topic/issue

The candidate has clearly identified an appropriate Modern Studies topic which relates to Social Issues – Crime and the law. The candidate also uses this section to state a hypothesis and three aims for their research.

Section B – Research methods

The candidate was awarded **8 marks**.

The candidate begins by referring to their first method of research – a website called debate.org.

They explain why they chose this method: '… it is popular and trustworthy' – no marks are awarded for this sentence.

They give a strength of the website – '…you get people's opinions, this is good because I can see how people really feel about CCTV' – this was awarded **1 mark**.

No marks were given for their point about the site not being biased, but the candidate then says they 'got information on both sides and my judgement wasn't clouded.' – this was awarded **1 mark**.

They state that a weakness of the method was that it isn't dated and so they don't know how old it is therefore it may be unreliable information – this was awarded **1 mark**.

They give another weakness, stating that the opinions are anonymous and this is bad because they can't get information on what type of people are for/against CCTV (age/gender etc) – this was awarded **1 mark**.

On the next page, the candidate attempts to give an improvement and states they would 'look through more opinions so I had a larger range of views.' This is generic and vague so was not awarded any marks.

The candidate moves onto their second method: a blog by Security Kart. They state that it was 'well laid out' which is good because they could easily find information they wanted – this was awarded **1 mark**.

They try to give another strength by stating that it helped with two of their aims because they didn't have to 'use lots of other ways of finding information.' This was too vague and was not awarded any marks.

The candidate gives a weakness of the blog and states it was dated, which means the information would be inaccurate as they don't know how old it is, so they can't trust the information – this was awarded **1 mark**.

Another weakness of the blog is given; they say that they don't know if this website was reliable because they had never heard of it before, so they don't know if they can trust the information is correct – this was awarded **1 mark**.

The candidate attempts to give an improvement to their method and state that they would use more statistics, but this was too vague and was not awarded any marks.

Their last paragraph in 'Methods' suggests a different way of researching. They state that a police interview would be good and give the reasons why – this was awarded **1 mark**.

Section C – Research findings

The candidate was awarded **6 marks**.

The candidate begins by looking at their first aim – 'Main arguments for CCTV'.

The candidate gives a brief introductory point: 'One argument for CCTV is that it keeps an eye on you.' They copy information from their research sheet and are awarded no marks for this. However, after the copied quote they add accurate evaluation about how 'security cameras will look out for you'. This is good because if someone was to commit a crime against you then the CCTV will catch them and be able to see who the criminal is (**1 mark awarded**). This could also be considered a potential conclusion, if required. The introductory point about CCTV keeping an eye on you should be considered holistically with the evaluation.

Their second paragraph gives another argument for CCTV ('…it can be used in court') and then copies information from the research sheet. Their evaluation afterwards states that '...if a jury is unsure …then the CCTV evidence will be able to prove what really happened which is good because the offender can get rightfully punished for their actions.' Like the previous paragraph, this was awarded **1 mark** and could also be a potential conclusion.

Their third argument for CCTV follows the same layout and style. They give a brief introductory statement ('…it creates a fear of getting caught') and then copies information from the research sheet. They try to evaluate after the quote by saying 'This means that even by just installing the CCTV cameras it helps reduce crime because people are too scared of being caught', but this is

repetition of the quote. The next sentence about cameras deterring people from committing a crime was awarded **1 mark** and is also a potential conclusion. The candidate moves onto their second aim and repeats the style and format established in the previous three paragraphs. Their copied quote does not get marks, but their evaluation was awarded **1 mark**: '…it means that even people who aren't doing anything wrong may become paranoid and feel like they have no freedom which can make people become unhappy.' This is also a potential conclusion.

Their next argument against CCTV is about evidence being tampered. The copied quote is not given marks, but their evaluation was awarded **1 mark**: 'This shows that although CCTV can be good evidence in court many criminals have found ways of destroying or changing the evidence so that it is unusable. This is bad because we may not always be able to trust the CCTV.' This could also be a conclusion.

The candidate gives another argument against CCTV: they copy from their research sheet and then add evaluation from their quote about how CCTV isn't always good for identifying criminals as people can change their appearance to make themselves unrecognisable. This was awarded **1 mark** and is also a potential conclusion.

The candidate's third aim was to find out people's opinions and there is copying of information from the research sheet, so no marks were awarded for this. They do say that a minority of people would feel uncomfortable with CCTV so most people are for CCTV – **1 mark** was awarded.

There are 7 marks in total for this section and all research findings could also be considered as conclusions. Markers can award 6 here, with one potential transfer to Section D.

Section D – Research conclusions

The candidate was awarded **1 mark**.

The candidate begins by stating that there are lots of arguments for CCTV and lots of arguments against. This is not given any marks as it is too vague.

They state that the arguments for CCTV outweigh the arguments against and most people are fine with CCTV. This is repetition of their last finding, so no marks are awarded here.

The candidate finishes by stating that they have proven their hypothesis that CCTV is an effective way to stop crime from happening. This is not awarded any marks as they do not give any evidence to support it.

1 mark was awarded in total due to the transfer from research findings.

Overall, the candidate was awarded **15 out of 20 marks** for this assignment.

Candidate 2

Section A – Research topic/issue

The candidate has clearly identified an appropriate Modern Studies topic which relates to Social Issues – Social inequality. The candidate identifies their hypothesis as 'The NHS is Failing'. The candidate also uses this section to state three clear aims for their research.

Section B – Research methods

The candidate was awarded **7 marks**.

The candidate begins by referring to their first method of research as a book from the school library, 'Complete Issues Focus Guide'. The candidate explains why they chose this method. This was not awarded any marks as it was too vague and generic. The candidate then goes on to explain a strength of the method was that it was easy to use. This point was too generic and awarded no marks. The candidate then goes on to say that the book was well laid out with 'headings at each different section' and this helped in finding what they were looking for (**1 mark awarded**). The candidate then gives a second strength of this method, but this was too vague and generic in nature. The candidate goes on to state that the content was up to date as it was 'not giving me facts from the 80's' (**1 mark awarded**). The last sentence of this paragraph is repetitive and was not awarded any marks.

The candidate then goes on to comment on the research methods' weaknesses. The candidate provides what they believe to be an accurate weakness of the research method concerning reliability and date of the source. However, this point is very confused and did not relate to the research method at the present time. In the final sentence of this paragraph the candidate is given credit for their point relating to the time it took to look through many different books. While this is a vague point, taking the sentence holistically it is worth **1 mark**.

Finally, at the bottom of the page the candidate makes a confused point about using another book written in recent years. The remaining part of the answer is too repetitive and contradictory and was not awarded any marks.

The candidate moves on to discuss their second research method, a class survey that is detailed on the research sheet. They state they carried out a survey with one of their classmates and asked three questions. The candidate goes on to say that they chose this method as it can 'receive honest opinions' from their peers (**1 mark awarded**). The remainder of the comments regarding 'quickly' and 'easily' were awarded no further marks. The candidate then gives a second strength; however, this is repetition of gaining honest opinions of peers and was awarded no further marks.

The candidate then states that a weakness is that they only asked their peers, and it isn't representative of 'society as a whole' – this was awarded **1 mark**.

The candidate goes on to state that a second weakness of their survey was the low number of people answering stating they only had 12 people in the class, making the survey unreliable (**1 mark awarded**). The candidate goes on to provide a vague point about giving out the survey to more people, however they then develop the point further in relation to giving the survey to a larger variety of people and more age groups, making results more trustworthy – this was awarded **1 mark**.

Section C – Research findings

The candidate was awarded **6 marks**.

The candidate begins by stating that they found out that the two main reasons for the NHS failing were staffing and finance – this was awarded **1 mark**. The candidate then goes on to state that at the 'end of June 2018 there were over 100,000 unfilled posts in the NHS' (**1 mark awarded**). They continue to state that the NHS does not have enough staff and elaborate, stating that 'less staff equals less patients being seen'. Whilst the point about enough staff is repetition, the second part of this finding was awarded **1 mark**. In the next sentence the candidate provides a personal opinion regarding the NHS which is not awarded any marks. The final sentence regarding machinery and medicine and the cost to the NHS was awarded **1 mark**.

Using Source 1 from their research sheet, the candidate copies a statistic about satisfaction levels amongst the public. This is not awarded any marks as it is a direct copy from the research sheet. The candidate then continues to state that 'this tells me that this area of the NHS needs improving' and 'more people aren't happy' – this was awarded **1 mark**. The candidate moves on to provide a second statistic directly copied from their research sheet but once again makes the evaluation that clearly something needs to be done to improve GP services – this was awarded **1 mark**. The candidate copies a final piece of evidence from the research sheet before commenting on it. This was not awarded any marks as it is a straight copy and repetitive evaluation.

In the final paragraph of this section the candidate was awarded **1 mark** for their comment regarding NHS staff being more pragmatic in their approach to their work. A further **1 mark** was awarded for the last sentence of the statement that the NHS 'should focus on certain areas of health care that need more attention.'

In total the candidate has 8 credit worthy points. In this section the candidate was awarded 6 marks. 2 marks could potentially be carried forward to the conclusion section if required.

Section D – Research conclusions

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**.

The candidate starts by providing a limited conclusion that the NHS is failing – this was awarded **1 mark**. The candidate then goes on to repeat a conclusion

regarding staffing and financial issues being a major problem. This was awarded no marks; however, the final part of the conclusion section was awarded **1 mark**. Whilst there is some repetition in the conclusion section, **2 marks** from findings can still be transferred from section C to D to give the candidate full marks for this section.

Overall, the candidate was awarded **17 out of 20 marks** for this assignment.