National
Qualifications
2023

2023 Modern Studies

Paper 2

Higher

Finalised Marking Instructions

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General marking principles for Higher Modern Studies Paper 2

Always apply these general principles. Use them in conjunction with the detailed marking instructions, which identify the key features required in candidates' responses.

(a) Always use positive marking. This means candidates accumulate marks for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding; marks are not deducted for errors or omissions.

(b) If a candidate response does not seem to be covered by either the principles or detailed marking instructions, and you are uncertain how to assess it, you must seek guidance from your team leader.

(c) Marking must be consistent. Never make a hasty judgement on a response based on length, quality of handwriting or a confused start.

(d) Use the full range of marks available for each question.

(e) The detailed marking instructions are not an exhaustive list. Award marks for other relevant points.

Marking principles for each question type

For each of the question types the following provides an overview of marking principles.

The information handling questions used in this paper are:
- to what extent is it accurate to state that . . . **10 marks**
- what conclusions can be drawn . . . **10 marks**
- to what extent are sources . . . reliable **8 marks**

Objectivity questions (10 marks)
- Award up to **3 marks** for a single developed point depending on the use of the evidence in the sources and the quality of the analysis or evaluation.
- Award marks where candidates synthesise information both within and between sources.
- For **full marks** candidates must refer to all sources in their answer.
- Candidates must also make an overall judgement as to the extent of the accuracy of the given statement. Award **a maximum of 8 marks** if no overall judgement is made on extent of accuracy of the statement.
- Award **a maximum of 6 marks** if a candidate only refers to one side of the argument in their answer.

Conclusions questions (10 marks)
- Award up to **3 marks** for a single developed point depending on the use of the evidence in the sources and the quality of the analysis or evaluation.
- Award marks where candidates synthesise information both within and between sources.
- For **full marks** candidates must refer to all sources in their answer.
- Candidates are required to make an overall conclusion about the issue in the question. Award **a maximum of 8 marks** if candidates do not provide an overall conclusion.

Reliability questions (8 marks)
- Award up to **2 marks** for a single developed point depending on the use of the evidence in the sources and the quality of the analysis and/or evaluation.
- For **full marks** candidates must refer to all sources in their answer.
- Candidates must also make a judgement based on the evidence on the most reliable source. Award **a maximum of 6 marks** if candidates do not provide an overall judgement.
- Award **a maximum of 3 marks** if only one factor is considered, for example, date, bias, sample size, provenance.

Higher Modern Studies marking grid for 10-mark source-based (objectivity/conclusions) questions

	1 mark	2 marks	3 marks	4 marks	5 marks	6 marks	7 marks	8 marks
Use of sources of evidence. Award up to **8 marks**.	Candidate uses one relevant piece of evidence from one source relating to one aspect of the issue.	Candidate links two distinct pieces of evidence relating to one aspect of the issue which may be from within a single source or between sources.	Candidate synthesises two distinct pieces of evidence relating to one aspect of the issue which may be from within a single source or between sources and gives an evaluative comment.	In addition, the candidate addresses a second aspect of the issue with reference to one relevant piece of evidence.	In addition, the candidate addresses a second aspect of the issue with reference to linked evidence.	In addition, the candidate addresses a second aspect of the issue is addressed with reference to synthesised evidence including an evaluative comment.	In addition, the candidate addresses a third aspect of the issue with reference to one relevant piece of evidence.	In addition, the candidate addresses a third aspect of the issue with reference to linked evidence. **OR** Synthesised evidence including an evaluative comment.
Objectivity Candidate presents an analysis of the accuracy/selectivity/ objectivity of a given view against the evidence. Award up to **2 marks**.	Candidate provides an objective assessment of a given view, based on evidence presented from the sources.	Candidate provides a detailed objective assessment of a given view, based on evidence presented from the sources.	**1** For **full marks** candidates **must** refer to all sources in their answer. Award **a maximum of 6 marks** if all sources are not used. **2** **Objectivity questions**. • Award up to **8 marks** for an accurate evaluation of the given view using evidence. • Award up to **2 marks** for an overall judgement as to the extent of accuracy and/or objectivity of the view. **3** **Conclusions questions**. For **full marks** candidates **must** make evaluative comments or judgement(s) or draw a conclusion about each of the points given in the question. Award a further **2 marks** for an overall conclusion.					

Higher Modern Studies marking grid for 10-mark source-based (objectivity/conclusions) questions

	1 mark	2 marks	3 marks	4 marks	5 marks	6 marks	7 marks	8 marks
Conclusion Candidate presents an overall evaluative comment(s) derived from a judgement of the evidence. Award up to **2 marks**.	Candidate presents an overall conclusion that is clear and supported by evidence from the sources.	Candidate presents an overall conclusion that is insightful and supported by detailed evidence from the sources.						

Higher Modern Studies marking grid for 8-mark source-based (reliability) questions

	1 mark	2 marks	3 marks	4 marks	5 marks	6 marks
Use of sources of evidence. Award up to **6 marks**.	Candidate uses one relevant piece of evidence accurately to explain the reliability of one source.	Candidate uses one relevant piece of evidence accurately to explain in detail the reliability of one source. **OR** Candidate uses two distinct pieces of evidence accurately to explain the reliability of one source.	In addition, the candidate uses one relevant piece of evidence accurately to explain the reliability of a second source.	In addition, the candidate uses one relevant piece of evidence accurately to explain in detail the reliability of a second source. **OR** Candidate uses two distinct pieces of evidence accurately to explain the reliability of a second source.	In addition, the candidate uses one relevant piece of evidence accurately to explain the reliability of a third source.	In addition, the candidate uses one relevant piece of evidence accurately to explain in detail the reliability of a third source. **OR** Candidate uses two distinct pieces of evidence accurately to explain the reliability of a third source.
Reliability Candidate presents an overall evaluative comment(s) on which source is the most reliable, derived from a judgement of the evidence. Award up to **2 marks**.	Candidate presents an overall conclusion on the most reliable source, that is clear and supported by evidence from the sources.	Candidate presents an overall conclusion on the most reliable source, that is insightful and supported by detailed evidence from all the sources.	**1** For **full marks** candidates **must** refer to all sources in their answer. Award **a maximum of 5 marks** if all sources are not used. Award **a maximum of 3 marks** if only one factor is considered, for example, date, bias, sample size, provenance. **2** Award up to **6 marks** for an accurate evaluation of source reliability. Award a further **2 marks** for an overall judgement on the most reliable source.			

Marking instructions for each question

Conclusions question

Question	General marking instructions for this type of question	Max mark	Specific marking instructions for this question
1.	Candidates interpret and/or evaluate complex sources in order to reach conclusions. In order to gain marks candidates must show evidence which explains the conclusions reached. • award up to **3 marks** where candidates use evidence appropriately, depending on the quality of the explanation and the synthesis of the evidence to reach any one conclusion • for **full marks** candidates must refer to all sources in their answer • for **full marks** candidates must reach conclusions about each of the points given and make an overall conclusion on the issue.	**10**	Candidates can gain marks in a number of ways up to **a maximum of 10 marks.** **Possible approaches to answering the question** **The link between deprivation and drug deaths** **Response 1** The most deprived areas in Scotland have the highest numbers of drug deaths. **Total — 0 marks (conclusion without supporting evidence)** **Response 2** The most deprived areas in Scotland have the highest numbers of drug deaths. This is shown in Source D where the areas with the lowest SIMD quintiles have the highest drug-related deaths per million people. **Total — 1 mark (conclusion with supporting evidence from Source D)** **Response 3** The most deprived areas in Scotland have the highest numbers of drug deaths. This is shown in Source A as it says that drug deaths are 18 times higher in the 700 most deprived postcode areas. **Total — 1 mark (conclusion with supporting evidence from Source A)** **Response 4** The most deprived areas in Scotland have the highest numbers of drug deaths. This is shown in Source D where the areas with the lowest SIMD quintiles have the highest drug-related deaths per million people. The lowest average quintiles are in Glasgow and Dundee and both areas have the highest numbers of drug-related deaths per million people at 444 and 452. The least two least deprived areas in Source D are East Renfrewshire and Aberdeenshire and they have the lowest death rates. Aberdeenshire's death rate of 89 per million people, which is the lowest given, is less than a quarter of Glasgow and Dundee's. **Total — 3 marks (conclusion with synthesis of evidence and evaluative comment)**

Question			General marking instructions for this type of question	Max mark	Specific marking instructions for this question
					Response 5 In conclusion, the most deprived areas in Scotland have the highest numbers of drug deaths. This is shown in Source D where the areas with the lowest SIMD quintiles have the highest drug-related deaths per million people. The lowest average quintiles are in Glasgow and Dundee and both areas have the highest numbers of drug-related deaths per million people at 444 and 452. This is also supported by the graph in Source B which shows that quintile 1 deaths are much higher than all the others. **Total — 3 marks (conclusion with synthesis of evidence and evaluative comment)** **The age of drug death victims over time** **Response 6** Drug death victims are getting older. This is shown in Source B where the average age has gone up to nearly 44 in 2021. **Total — 1 mark (conclusion with supporting evidence from Source B)** **Response 7** Drug death victims are getting older. This is shown in Source B where the average age has gone up to nearly 44 in 2021. This links to Source A which says there has been a change in the age profile of drug death victims. This clearly shows that drug death victims are getting older. **Total — 2 marks (conclusion with supporting evidence from two sources)** **Response 8** Drug death victims are getting older. This is shown in Source B where the average age has gone up to nearly 44 in 2021. This is an increase of over five years since 2011 although there have been some years when there have been slight falls. This links to Source A which says there has been a change in the age profile of drug death victims. **Total — 3 marks (conclusion with synthesis of evidence and evaluative comment)** **The impact of drug consumption rooms on drug deaths** **Response 9** Scotland has over 250 drug deaths per million people while the Netherlands has only 17. **Total — 0 marks (evidence without a valid conclusion)**

Question			General marking instructions for this type of question	Max mark	Specific marking instructions for this question
					Response 10 It seems clear that DRCs can lead to fewer drug deaths. Rodney Woridio in Source A says that evidence from Europe suggests they may save lives, and this is backed up in Source C which shows that seven countries with DCRs have much lower death rates than Scotland. In fact, even the highest of the seven (Denmark) is about 220 fewer per million people than the Scottish figure. **Total — 3 marks (conclusion with synthesis of evidence and evaluative comment)** **Possible overall conclusions on the extent of Scotland's drug death problem over recent years** **Response 11** I conclude that Scotland has a big problem with drug-related deaths. **Total — 0 mark (valid overall conclusion not supported by evidence)** **Response 12** I conclude that Scotland has a big problem with drug-related deaths, as the number of deaths in 2021 was a tragic 1330. **Total — 1 mark (overall conclusion supported by evidence)** **Response 13** I conclude that Scotland's drug death problem has been getting worse in recent years. I know this because Source B shows that between 2011 and 2021 drug-related deaths have around doubled in number. **Total — 1 mark (overall conclusion supported by evidence)** **Response 14** Scotland's problem with drug deaths has been getting gradually worse since 2013. The figures have increased from 527 to 1,330 in 2021 which means it has more than doubled. **Total — 2 marks (overall conclusion supported by detailed evidence)** *Any other valid point that meets the criteria described in the general marking principles for this type of question.* **Do not award marks for a valid conclusion which is not supported with relevant source evidence.**

Objectivity question

Question			General marking instructions for this type of question	Max mark	Specific marking instructions for this question
2.			Candidates interpret and/or evaluate complex sources of information, detecting and explaining the extent of objectivity. In order to gain marks candidates must show evidence which supports the extent of accuracy in a given viewpoint. • award up to **3 marks** where candidates use evidence appropriately, depending on the quality of the explanation and the synthesis of the evidence, for any one explanation of the extent of objectivity • for **full marks** candidates must refer to all sources in their answer • award **a maximum of 6 marks** if a candidate only refers to one side of the argument in their answer • award **a maximum of 8 marks** if no overall judgement is made on extent of accuracy of the statement.	**10**	Candidates can gain marks in a number of ways up to **a maximum of 10 marks.** **Evidence that supports the view — 'traditional media platforms are the main providers of news for people in the UK'.** **Examples of types of evidence that support the view include** • television is still the most popular source of news in the UK (Sources A, B or C) • BBC One and ITV are the two most popular individual sources of news (Source C) • 79% of people say they still use television as a source of news (Source B) • white and elderly people still use television as the main platform of news in the UK (Source B) • 52% of the age +65 group still use a newspaper. (Source B) **Possible approach to answering the question:** **Response 1** Most people in the UK still use traditional media as a source of news as Source A tells us that 'Television remains the most popular source among the population with most using it as their main platform'. **Total — 1 mark (evidence used from one source)** **Response 2** Most people in the UK still use traditional media as a source of news. Source A tells us that 'Television remains the most popular source among the population with most using it as their main platform'. This is supported by Source B which shows 79% use television, clearly the most popular of any platform. **Total — 3 marks (relevant evidence from two sources with evaluative comment).** **Evidence that opposes the view — 'traditional media platforms are the main providers of news for people in the UK'**

Question			General marking instructions for this type of question	Max mark	Specific marking instructions for this question
					Examples of types of evidence that opposes the view include: • most adults use the internet every single day with two-thirds using new media as an important source of news (Source A) • 89% of young people use the internet as their main source of information (Source B) • in 2021, Facebook was the third most important source of news with 36% of adults using it as their main source of news (Source C) • young and ethnic minorities prefer the internet as a source of news (Sources B and D) • annual newspapers sales have halved with less than a third of people now reading a newspaper (Sources B and D) • the Guardian says young people have abandoned television news almost entirely, only watching two minutes of television news a day (Source D). **Possible approaches to answering the question:** **Response 2** The statement is inaccurate because Source D says that young and ethnic minorities have abandoned some forms of traditional media in favour of the internet. **Total — 1 mark (evidence from one source)** **Response 3** Source B shows that the internet (73%) is more popular than traditional media such as radio and newspapers (46% and 32% respectively). This can be backed up by Source C that shows Facebook is more popular than any newspapers as there are no newspapers amongst the top news sources. **Total — 2 marks (evidence from two sources)**

Question			General marking instructions for this type of question	Max mark	Specific marking instructions for this question
					For **full marks**, candidates **must** make an overall judgment as to the extent of the accuracy of the given statement. **Examples of possible overall judgements:** • overall people in the UK use traditional media more than the internet **(0 marks)** • the internet is already more popular than radio and newspapers so it is beginning to replace more traditional media. The statement is partly inaccurate **(1 mark)** • the statement is inaccurate to a certain extent as the young and minority groups have abandoned traditional media like television and newspapers in favour of the internet **(1 mark)** • the statement is largely true as, although the internet is very popular and is seen as a very important source of news, it has yet to replace television. Most people in the UK still rate television as their main source of information and choose BBC One as their main news source. Although Facebook is the third most popular, other social media platforms like Twitter lag far behind television. **(2 marks)**

Reliability question

Question			General marking instructions for this type of question	Max mark	Specific marking instructions for this question
3.			Candidates interpret and/or **three** complex sources of information, evaluating and explaining the extent or reliability. In order to gain marks candidates must show evidence which supports the evaluations reached. • award up to **2 marks** where candidates use evidence appropriately, depending on the quality of the explanation and the synthesis of the evidence, for any one explanation of the extent of reliability • for **full marks** candidates must refer to all sources in their answer • for **full marks** candidates must make an overall conclusion on the most reliable source of information.	**8**	Candidates can gain marks in a number of ways up to **a maximum of 8 marks.** **Source A** **Response 1** Source A is completely unreliable as it is out of date from nearly two years ago. **Total — 0 marks (no evidence or explanation provided)** **Response 2** Source A is very reliable as it was published by a respected polling company (You Gov) with a good reputation. As well as this it used a large sample size of over 6,000 which can give a valid result. **Total — 2 marks (detailed evidence provided)** **Response 3** Source A is reliable and trustworthy to some degree. It has been published by a very well-known polling company with a good reputation. However, the views given are from nearly two years ago and, although they may be trustworthy for 2021, they could be out of date by now. **Total — 2 marks (detailed evidence provided)** **Source B** **Response 4** Source B is untrustworthy as The Guardian is biased towards left-wing issues so it cannot always be trusted to be balanced. **Total — 1 mark (straightforward evidence provided)** **Response 5** Source B is trustworthy as it has been a well-respected, serious newspaper for 200 years. Its reliability seems obvious as it has been chosen as news website of the year. **Total — 2 marks (detailed evidence provided)**

Question	General marking instructions for this type of question	Max mark	Specific marking instructions for this question
			Source C **Response 6** Source C is from a well-known pressure group who are, however, very much a one-sided organisation in favour of green issues. The web page is a couple of years old but it will be an accurate representation of their views about COP 26. Overall, Source C can only be considered partly reliable. **Total — 2 marks (detailed evidence provided)** **Examples of an overall conclusion on the most reliable source of information** **Response 7** Source A is the most reliable source as it is the most up to date having been published on 16 November 2021. **Total — 0 marks (overall conclusion not supported by evidence with no comparison)** **Response 8** Source B is the most reliable as The Guardian is very well respected and reliable and has won an award as news website of the year. **Total — 1 mark (conclusion and evidence without an active comparison)** **Response 9** Source A is the most reliable as it was published by a polling company using a massive range of views from over 6,000 people. Source B and C are both less reliable than A as they are based on a much narrower number of opinions and are both making a biased argument. The newspaper and the journalist have their own agenda as does the pressure group in Source C. **Total — 2 marks (overall conclusion supported by detailed evidence from all sources)** For **full marks**, candidates **must** make an overall judgement on the most reliable source.

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]