National
Qualifications
2021 ASSESSMENT RESOURCE

X849/76/12

Modern Studies
Paper 2

Duration — 1 hour 15 minutes

Total marks — 28

Attempt **ALL** questions.

Write your answers clearly in the answer booklet provided. In the answer booklet you must clearly identify the question number you are attempting.

Use **blue** or **black** ink.

Before leaving the examination room you must give your answer booklet to the Invigilator; if you do not, you may lose all the marks for this paper.

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X8497612

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Total marks — 28

Attempt ALL questions

Question 1

Study Sources A, B and C then attempt the question that follows.

Source A

Poverty causing 'misery' in UK, and ministers are in denial, says UN official

Ministers are in a 'state of denial' about poverty, a UN expert has said following a 12-day tour of the UK. Professor Clark Logie, an expert on human rights law, claimed levels of child poverty need to be addressed. The government rejected his analysis, pointing to rising household incomes and the success of policies tackling pensioner poverty.

Quoting figures from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Professor Logie also said that more than 1·5 million people were destitute at some point in 2017, meaning they lived on less than £70 a week or went without essentials such as housing, food, clothing or heating. A fifth of the population, amounting to 14 million people, are living in poverty, Professor Logie said. He said government policy was preoccupied with reducing welfare dependency but he could not believe ministers were as happy with the results as they claimed to be.

Recent changes to welfare and benefits were 'punitive, mean-spirited, and often callous', Professor Logie said. He gave the example of 'draconian sanctions' which shut people out from the benefits system for weeks or months at a time, sometimes for minor infringements such as missing an appointment.

Many of the 'harsh' policies could be ended 'overnight' at little cost, he claimed.

These included the delay of five to twelve weeks before Universal Credit was paid, the single household payments which give more leverage to controlling or violent partners, and the two-child limit for benefit claimants. Since the changes to welfare and benefits introduced by 2012's Welfare Reform Act, poverty amongst single parents, especially women, has increased.

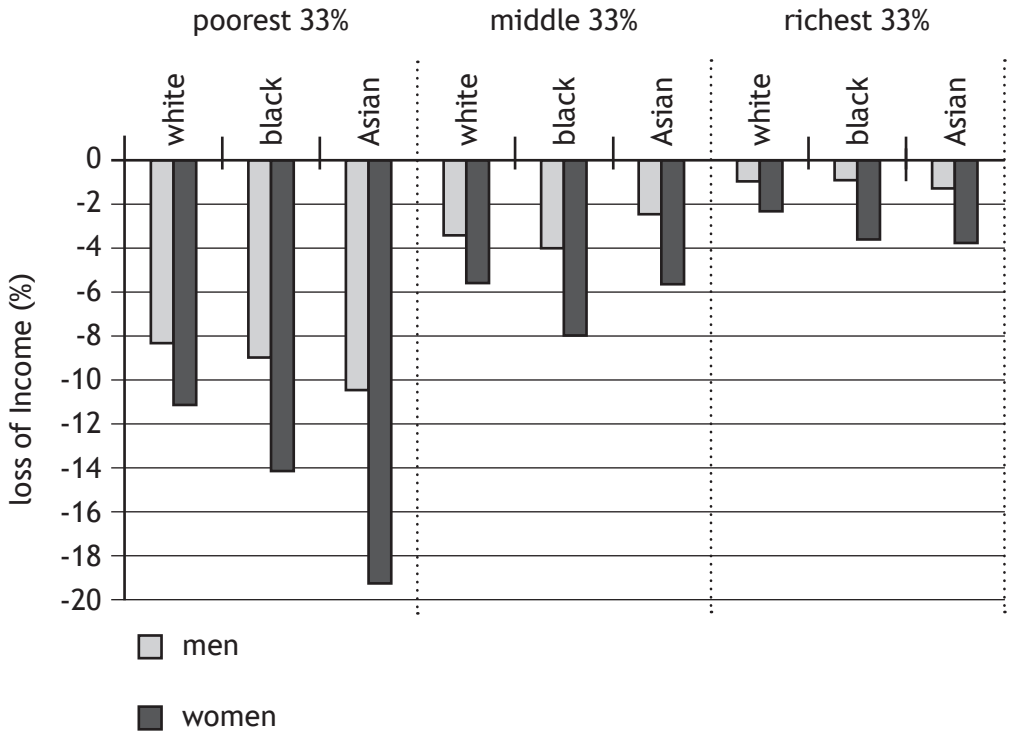
Poverty and gender

In the UK, **20% of women** are in poverty compared to **18% of men**

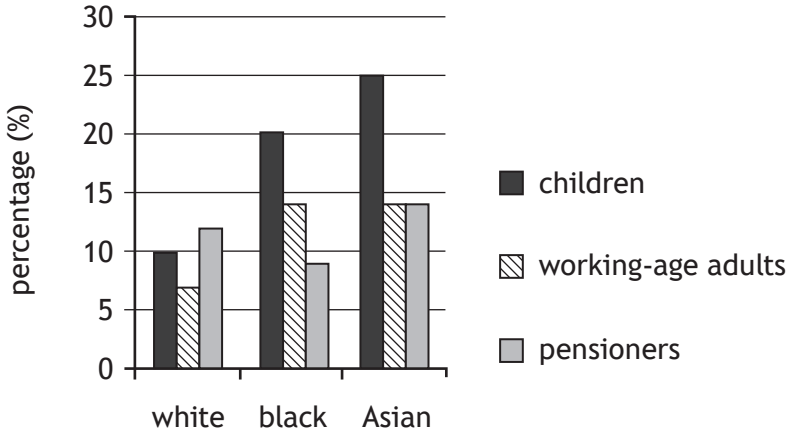
that's **5·1 million women** to **4·4 million men**

Source B

Impact of changes in welfare and benefits on household incomes by gender and ethnicity, 2010–2020



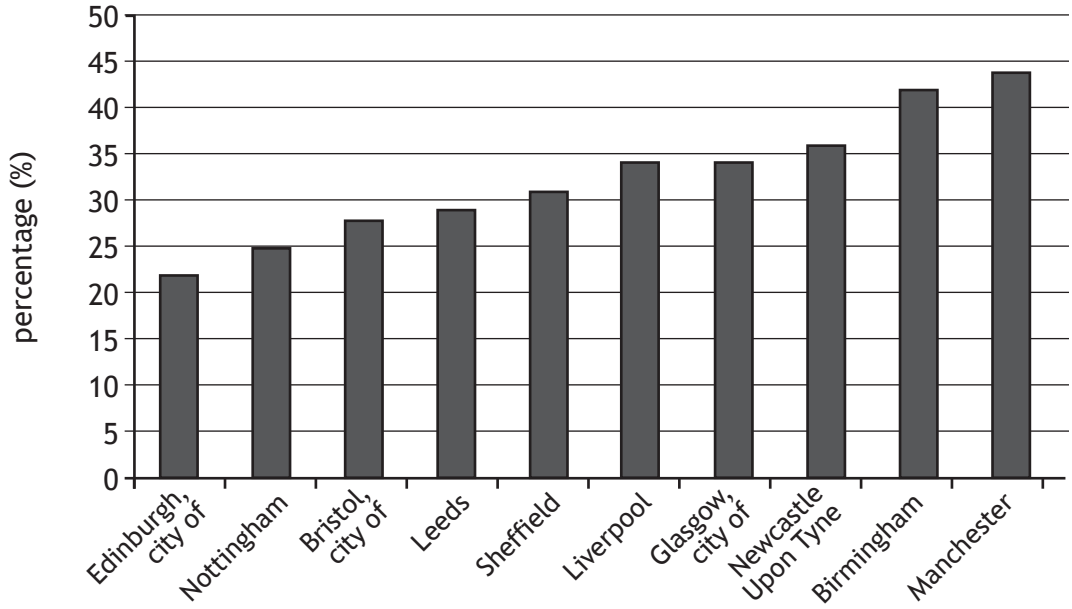
Percentage of people in persistent poverty by ethnicity, 2015



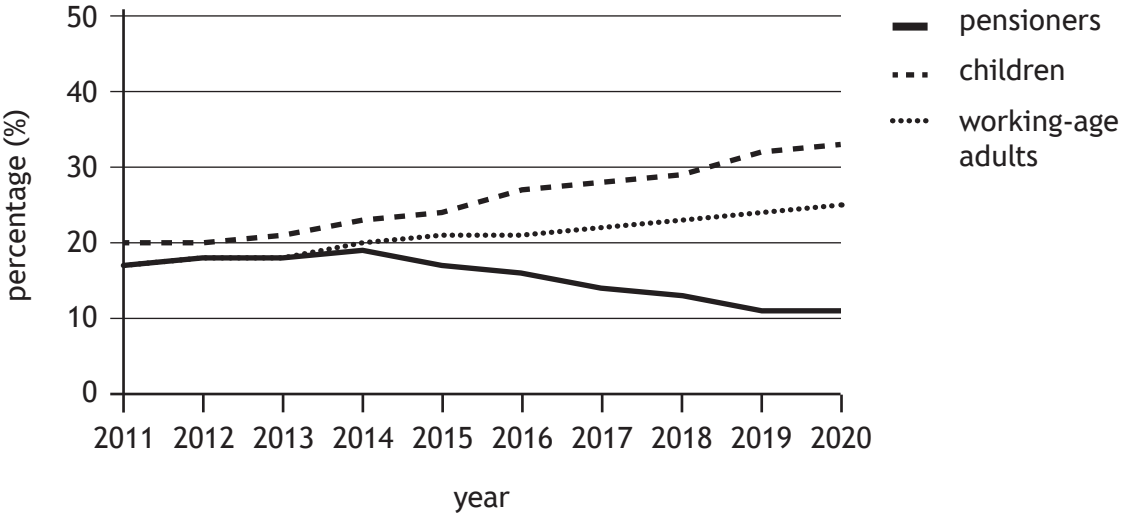
MARKS

Source C

Percentage of children in poverty in selected UK cities, July–September 2017



People in Britain living in poverty, by age group



Attempt the following question, using only the information in Sources A, B and C on *pages 03, 04* and above.

What conclusions can be drawn about poverty in the UK?

You must draw conclusions about

- the impact of welfare and benefit changes on men and women
- the children most likely to experience poverty
- pensioner poverty.

You must also make an overall conclusion on the **extent** of poverty in the UK. **10**

Question 2

Study Sources A, B and C then attempt the question that follows.

Source A

House of Lords – democratic?

The House of Lords is the upper chamber of the UK Parliament. It works with the House of Commons to make laws, check and challenge the actions of government and provide a forum of independent expertise. The Lords' powers in law-making are limited to amending or delaying non-financial bills and members (peers) have generally followed a convention acknowledging the superiority of the elected Commons.

The House of Lords chamber spends about 60% of its time on legislation; the other 40% is spent on scrutiny — questioning government and debating issues and policy. The UK's House of Lords is an almost all-appointed upper chamber, whose members are nominated by the main parties and appointed by the prime minister. Once appointed they are a member for life and attend as much as they wish. They do not face reappointment or re-election. Members of the Lords are subject to a Code of Conduct which sets legal and ethical standards and which requires them to act in the public interest and to meet the democratic standards of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. The success of the House of Lords in meeting these democratic criteria can be measured by the public's attitude towards them. The 2015 House of Lords (Expulsion and Suspension) Act authorises the House of Lords to expel a member who does not meet the Code of Conduct.

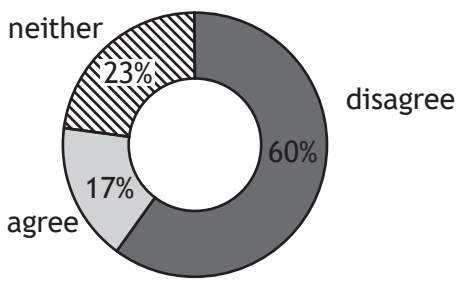
The research group, the Democratic Audit, identifies that in order for the House of Lords to be democratic it must meet the following criteria

- members are either directly elected by voters, appointed indirectly by the House of Commons or by a prime minister who is accountable to the House of Commons
- contain no members that are appointed as a result of their birth, wealth or as a result of donating money or services to party politicians (cronyism)
- appointments should be reviewed by an independent regulatory body
- mechanisms should be in place to remove members who breach legal or ethical standards.

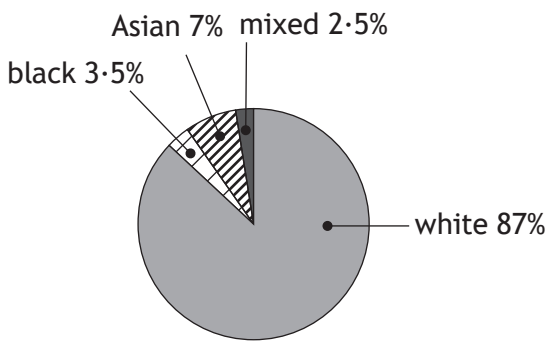
Source B

Public opinion on the House of Lords

Do you agree or disagree that the members of the House of Lords uphold democratic standards?



UK population by ethnicity



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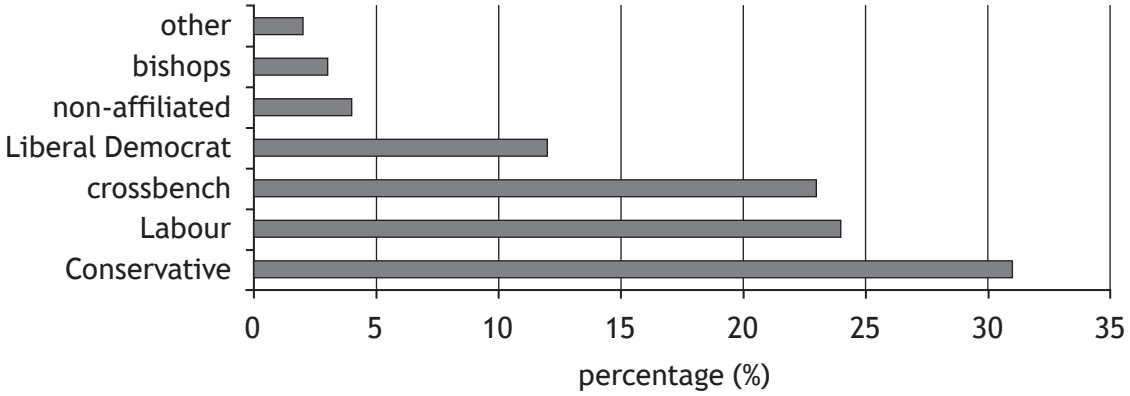
Source B (continued)

Membership of the House of Lords



Source C

Appointments to the House of Lords

The prime minister has the lead role in the appointment of new members to the House of Lords. However, the leaders of all main political parties can nominate members to be appointed and an independent House of Lords commission reviews these nominations, sending their recommendations to the prime minister. If approved, appointments are then formalised by the Queen.

Prime ministers have often used their ability to appoint members to gain political advantage in the House of Lords. After the 2015 general election, David Cameron's Conservative majority government and later Theresa May's minority government had the support of less than a third of members. To partially cope with this, Cameron appointed 26 Conservative members in 2015 and a further 13 in 2016. This final list attracted particular criticism for its alleged 'cronyism', with a number of key Conservative aides and donors awarded peerages.

Defenders of the Lords argue that it adds valuable debate to the law-making process. Many Lords are appointed due to their expertise in their profession and as such they bring a wider scrutiny and debate to many laws. For example, members of the Lords include businessman Alan Sugar and scientist Robert Winston. Many of the Lords have no party affiliation or sit as crossbenchers. As such, the Lords can act independently of government and act as an effective scrutiny on executive power which is a requirement of a functioning democracy.

Analysis by the SNP showed that nearly three-quarters of the 62 members appointed in the second half of 2015 were former MPs, special advisers or party aides. Only four academics entered the Lords in this time, suggesting that little diversity or expertise is being brought into play by the current House. Just over a quarter of members are women and only 6·4% are non-white. The House of Lords has also been hit by scandal. Lord Hanningfield was suspended from the Lords for a year after being convicted of abusing expenses, an offence that he served time in prison for in 2011. In 2015, Lord Sewell resigned his membership after it was revealed that he spent public money on drugs. Despite further claims of expenses abuse no Lord has yet been expelled by the House.

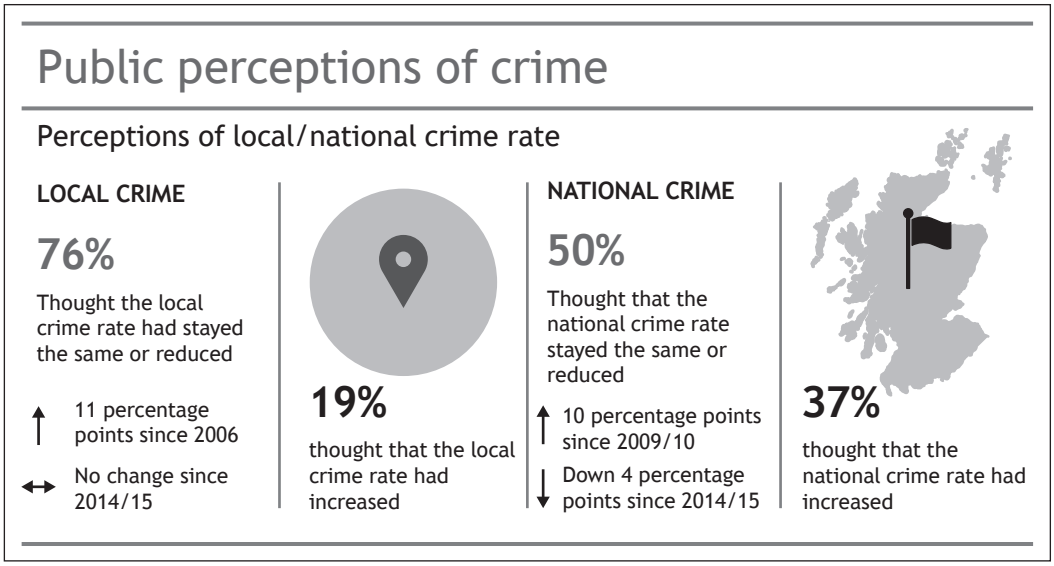
Attempt the following question, using only the information in Sources A, B and C on *page 06* and above.

To what extent is it accurate to state that the House of Lords is considered to be democratic? **10**

Question 3

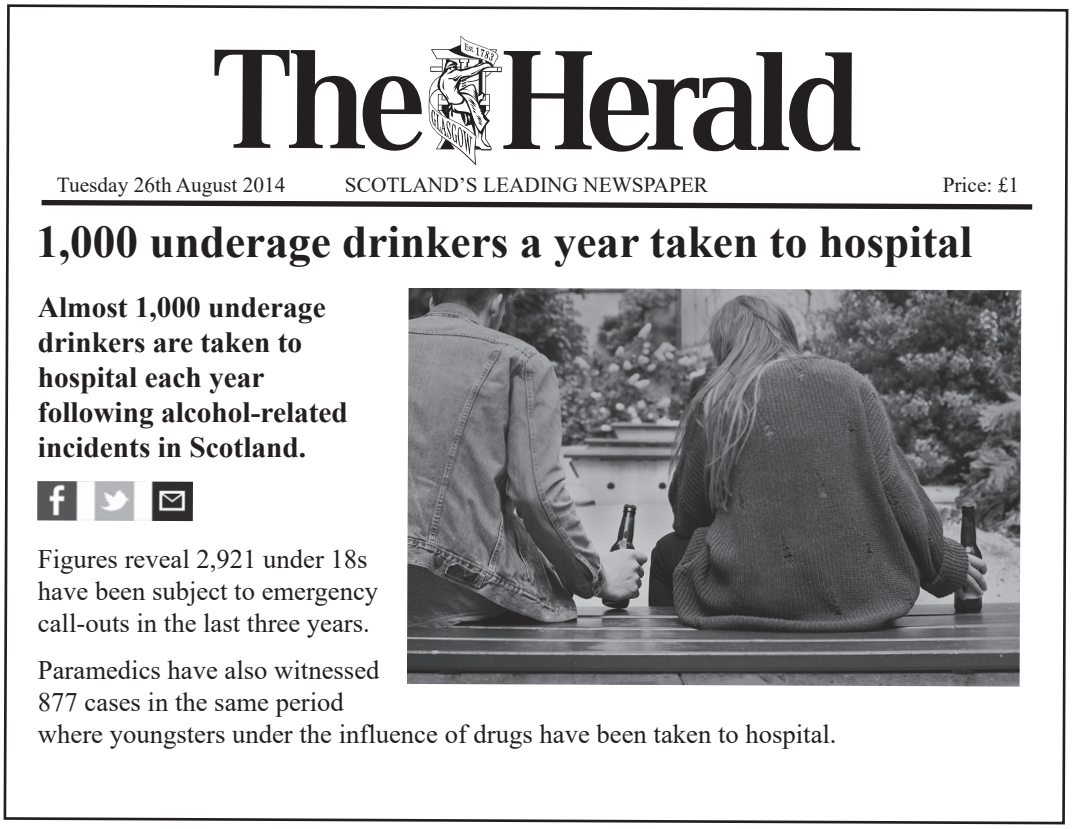
Study Sources A, B and C then attempt the question that follows.

Source A



Source Scottish Crime and Justice Survey by the Scottish Government. The survey is based on 5,570 face-to-face interviews with adults (aged 16 or over).

Source B



The Herald

Tuesday 26th August 2014 SCOTLAND'S LEADING NEWSPAPER Price: £1

1,000 underage drinkers a year taken to hospital

Almost 1,000 underage drinkers are taken to hospital each year following alcohol-related incidents in Scotland.

Figures reveal 2,921 under 18s have been subject to emergency call-outs in the last three years.

Paramedics have also witnessed 877 cases in the same period where youngsters under the influence of drugs have been taken to hospital.

Source The Herald newspaper, published 26 August 2014.

Question 3 (continued)

Source C

forest Voice and friend of the smoker

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NEWS & COMMENT

Headlines>Scotland: Forest criticises prison smoking ban

Scotland: Forest criticises prison smoking ban

Fri 30th November, 2018

Forest has criticised the prison service smoking ban that will be enforced in all Scottish prisons from today (30th November) and called for designated smoking areas.

Director Simon Clark said:

'No-one has the right to smoke in jail but smoking is one of the few pleasures many prisoners have.'

'At the very least inmates should be allowed to light up outside, in an exercise yard or designated smoking area.'

Warning ministers about the 'unintended consequences' of a prison smoking ban, Clark added

'Evidence from England suggests that banning smoking completely has serious unintended consequences because it can fuel violence and increase the use of illegal drugs.'

Responding to plans to give vaping kits to inmates who smoke, he said

'Vaping may satisfy some prisoners but for many people vaping is still no substitute for smoking.'

Source Forest, a pressure group.

Attempt the following question, using only the information in Sources A, B and C on *page 08* and above.

To what extent are Sources A, B and C reliable?

You must provide an overall conclusion on the most reliable source of information. **8**

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