



National
Qualifications
2024

X849/76/12

**Modern Studies
Paper 2**

TUESDAY, 30 APRIL
11:15 AM – 12:30 PM

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.



Total marks — 28
Attempt ALL questions

Question 1

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

Source A

Crime in Scotland

Crime in Scotland has been falling. In the last decade, reported offences in Scotland have fallen by around 75%, taking the pressure off Scotland's 15 prisons. This fall in crime has been attributed to fewer cases being reported in the west of Scotland, particularly in and around Glasgow. However, the rate of violent crime has more or less stayed the same. Minor assaults are the most common form of violent crime although there has been a significant decline in serious assaults and attempted murder involving a bladed weapon. The reconviction rates amongst males are still around 30%. It is estimated that 44% of violent crime is alcohol related. Young adults (16–24) are the group most likely to experience crime.

There are many causes of crime. Some criminologists argue that there may be a genetic reason that causes one gender to be much more likely to resort to violent aggressive behaviour than another. This could perhaps also explain the differences in gender reconviction rates. Others suggest that there are some social causes that increase the likelihood of criminality. Around 60% of young offenders were drunk at the time of their offence.

Regardless of the reasons, there is a divide in those who commit crime which is clearly expressed in the current prison population no matter which country is looked at. The statistics are clear in terms of differences within prison populations. Across all prison regimes, regardless of the political system, cultural or geographical differences, one gender appears much more likely to be in prison.

In Scotland, the prison population in 2023 was 143 prisoners per 100,000 of the population which was slightly lower than in England and Wales and substantially higher than most other European Union countries. However, this was much lower than in the USA, Thailand and some South American countries. Scotland's female prisoners make up 4% of the prison population.

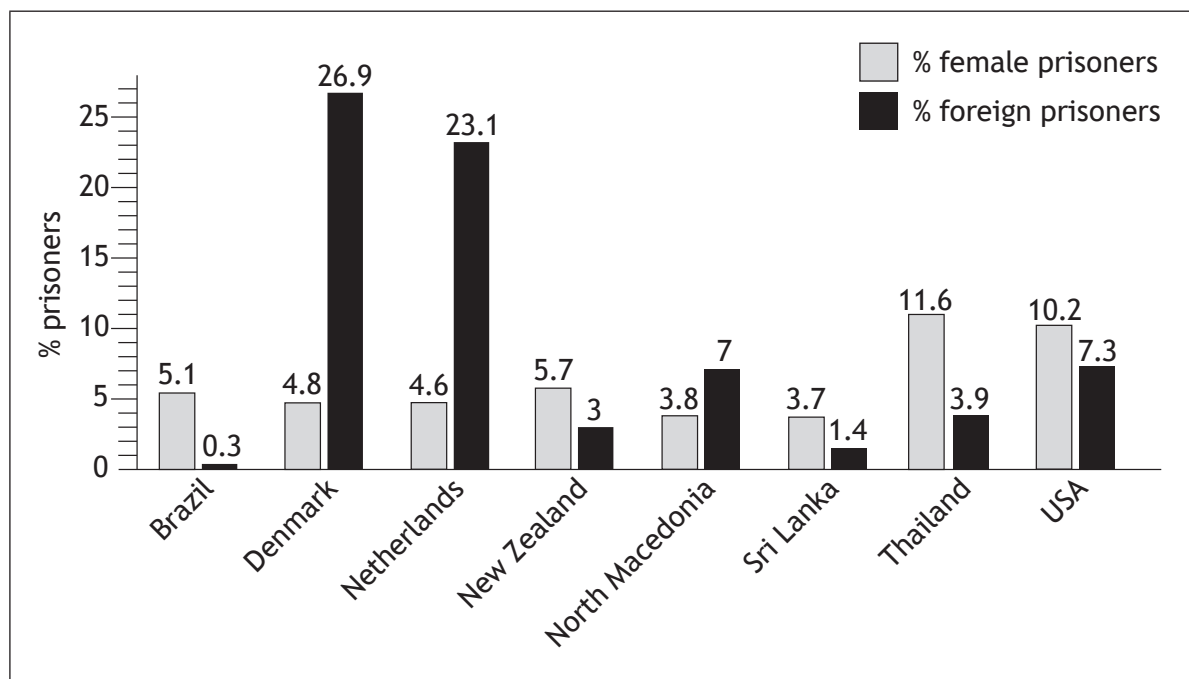
Source B

Selected international prison statistics

Country	Number of prisons	Number of prisoners	Prisoners, per 100,000 of population
Brazil	1,413	835,643	389
Denmark	54	4,106	69
Netherlands	48	11,447	65
New Zealand	18	8,610	167
North Macedonia	13	2,525	138
Sri Lanka	60	28,927	134
Thailand	143	262,139	377
USA	4,455	1,767,200	531

Question 1 (continued)

Source B (continued)



Source C

Scotland: violent crime

Scotland has become a safer place over the past decade with significant falls in the level of violent crime. On average, people feel safer and are less worried about violent crime. Remote rural areas, such as Orkney, have the lowest rates of this type of crime while Glasgow and Dundee are the two urban areas with the highest rates.

Violent crime however is still considered an issue with men, and those in the most deprived areas of the country are most likely to experience it. This type of crime is most commonly committed by offenders who are male and under the age of 40. As a result, it is this group which makes up most of the prison population. In relation to this, reconviction rates have been falling but still show a similar gender pattern. In Scotland, just under a quarter of female offenders are reconvicted. Of the people accused of murder in 2022, over half were reported to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol or both.

Attempt the following question, using only the information in Sources A, B and C on page 02 and above.

What conclusions can be drawn about crime in Scotland?

You must draw conclusions about:

- the link between gender and prison population in Scotland
- the link between gender and reconviction rates in Scotland
- the link between alcohol and crime in Scotland.

You must also make an overall conclusion on which country's prisons are **most** like Scotland's.

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Question 2

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

Source A

The global cost of COVID-19

The Medical Journal, September 2023

COVID-19 started spreading throughout the globe at the end of 2019. Four years later, according to the World Health Organisation, estimates of total infections stand at around 770 million. The estimated number of global deaths is around seven million. Different countries responded in very different ways to the COVID-19 pandemic once they realised the threat it posed.

In the UK, various government programmes, costing around £70 billion, were introduced to help save jobs. Despite efforts such as this, richer countries experienced the biggest increases in unemployment. Iain West, a COVID-19 researcher, has claimed that 'Taxpayers in richer countries will be subject to higher taxes for years to pay back the money that this has cost the government'. This is not such an issue in poorer countries.

Many countries worked with pharmaceutical companies to develop new vaccines to protect their population from the worst health effects of COVID-19. By the middle of 2023, richer countries had successfully introduced vaccines helping to protect the vast majority of their populations. On the other hand, poorer countries have often struggled to afford vaccines or don't have the healthcare system to administer them quickly. This has led to high death rates in these countries.

Tina Wise of the Global Banking Organisation suggested COVID-19's impact on people in the richer countries will be felt for years to come and has helped create massive financial problems. She also claimed that although GDP per capita (average income per person) around the world was impacted by COVID-19, it was the world's poorest countries which were affected the most.

The lessons from COVID-19 have led to global leaders making a commitment to ensure the world is better prepared for any future pandemic. The World Health Organisation has backed this approach believing that the world needs a more collaborative, cohesive and equitable approach to preventing, preparing for and responding to pandemics.

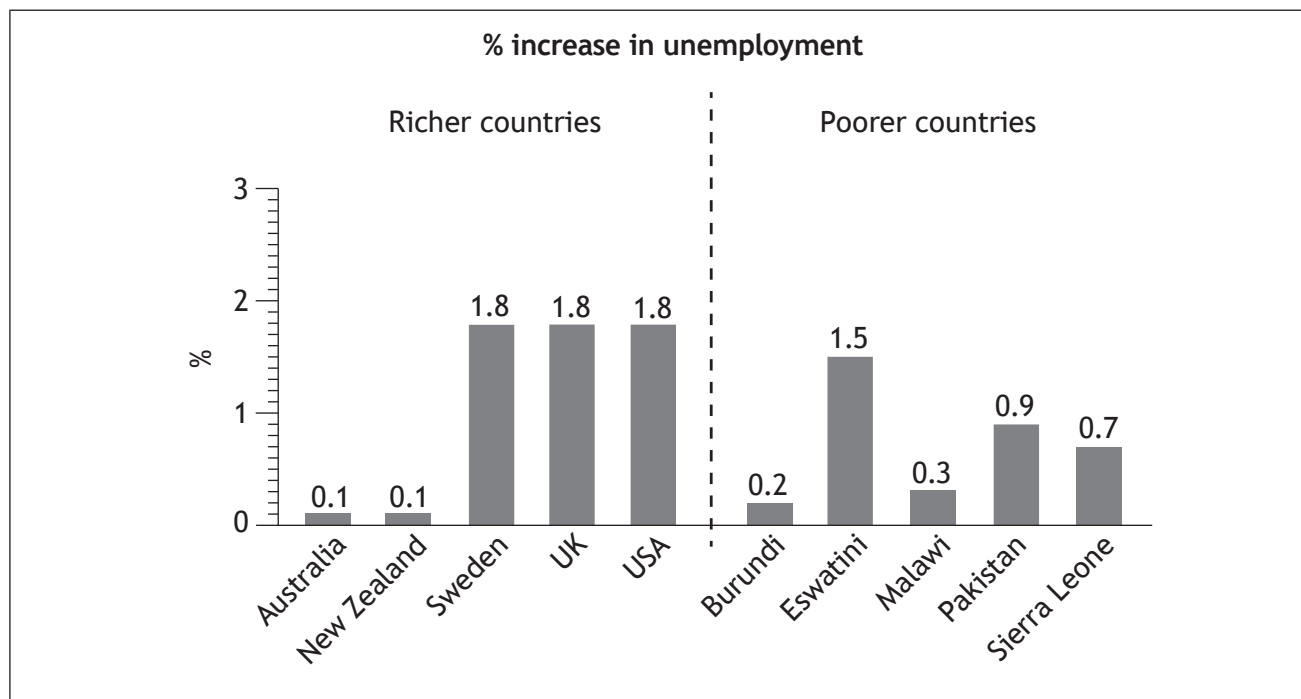
Source B

COVID-19's economic impact % change in GDP per capita



Question 2 (continued)

Source B (continued)



Source C

Selected COVID-19 statistics					
	Country	Population (millions)	% of population vaccinated — at least one dose	Total number of COVID-19 cases as % of population	Confirmed COVID-19 deaths as % of cases
Richer countries	Australia	26.0	91	43	0.2
	New Zealand	5.1	91	46	0.12
	Sweden	10.5	89	25.6	0.8
	UK	66.9	95	36.9	0.93
	USA	333.3	81	31	1.16
Poorer countries	Burundi	12.9	8	0.42	1.3
	Eswatini	1.2	32	6.25	2.0
	Malawi	20.4	44	0.4	3.0
	Pakistan	235.8	46	0.66	2.25
	Sierra Leone	8.6	55	0.8	2.42

MARKS

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

To what extent is it accurate to state that poorer countries were most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?

10

Question 3

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

Source A

Survey: attitudes to race and inequality in Great Britain

Racial tolerance in Britain compared to ten years ago.

Thinking about racial tolerance in Britain today, do you think there is now. . .?

- ☒ More racial tolerance than ten years ago ☒ About the same
☐ Less racial tolerance than ten years ago ☐ Don't know

June 2020



January 2009



Source: Telephone survey conducted by Ipsos, a professional research and polling company, 5th–10th June 2020 (sample size 1,059).

Source B



25 JULY 2014

What causes wellness

Sir Harry Burns

How can meaning and purpose contribute to one's wellbeing?



Source: TEDx website video featuring Sir Harry Burns, former Chief Medical Officer for Scotland.

Source C

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Sun 30 October 2022

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30th October 2022

All countries are being asked to improve on their last contributions to the 'Global Fund', set up to tackle malaria, tuberculosis and Aids in the world's poorest countries. Most G7 countries have already announced plans to do so, and Biden raised the issue during talks with Prime Minister Liz Truss last month. Britain gave £1.4bn to the fund during the last pledging round in 2019.

Source: Adapted from The Guardian newspaper online, a British news organisation.

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

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[END OF QUESTION PAPER]

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