



National
Qualifications
2025

X849/76/12

**Modern Studies
Paper 2**

FRIDAY, 23 MAY
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.



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DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE

Question 1

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

Source A

Armed conflict in Somalia

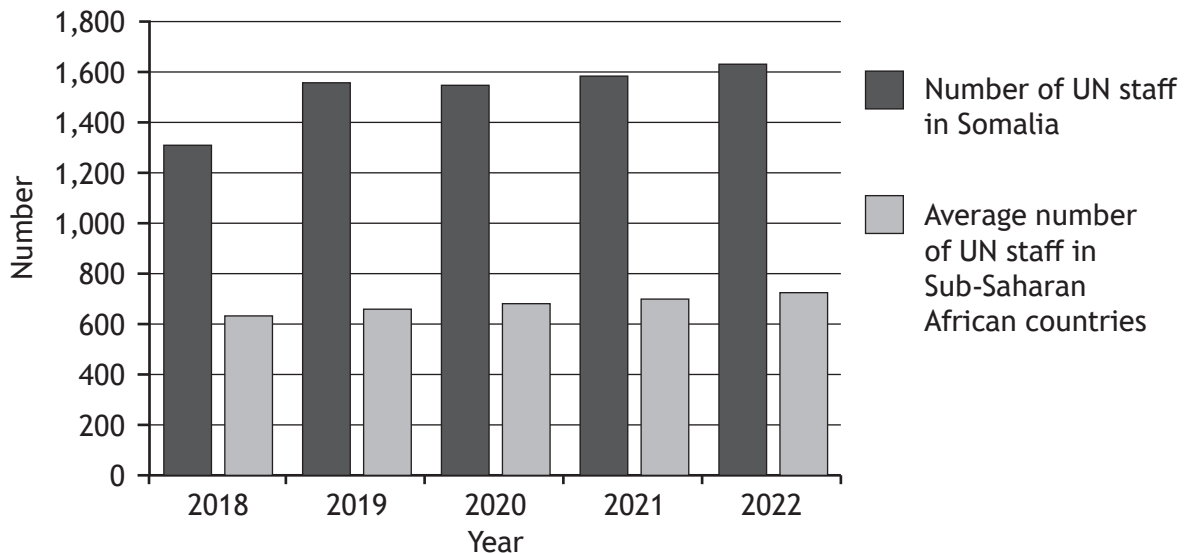
Somalia is a Sub-Saharan African country and one of the poorest in the world, with a GDP (a country's total income) of \$26.3 billion. Over 50% of its population are considered to be living in extreme poverty. Children make up a large part of Somalia's population, with nearly half under 16 years of age. Armed conflict has been ongoing in Somalia for decades. The presence of children fighting in the conflict is not a new occurrence but has been made much worse by the rise of the Al-Shabaab terrorist group, who recruit children as young as ten to become soldiers.

The effects of armed conflict can be catastrophic on a country, and it can take decades to rebuild infrastructure after the conflict has ended. Armed conflicts in Sub-Saharan Africa cost around \$18 billion per year on average. More than 80% of the record high 149 million Africans facing acute food insecurity are in conflict-affected countries, highlighting that conflict continues to be a primary reason for Sub-Saharan Africa's food crisis. Where there is little or no conflict in a country, such as in Eswatini, food shortages are less likely. In Somalia, about 6.7 million people face severe food insecurity with citizens frequently struggling with undernourishment in areas that have been torn apart by fighting.

One of the biggest challenges facing international organisations delivering humanitarian aid, for instance the United Nations (UN), is that despite large numbers of staff being present in countries such as Somalia, they often struggle to reach and help many of the citizens who are trapped inside particular conflict zones. Undoubtedly, armed conflict continues to delay the development of many nations but common misconceptions about Sub-Saharan Africa lead many people to falsely believe that it is all dangerous and war-torn. This is not the case, with countries such as Ghana and Mauritius regarded as safe and stable.

Source B

Deployment of United Nations staff, 2018–2022



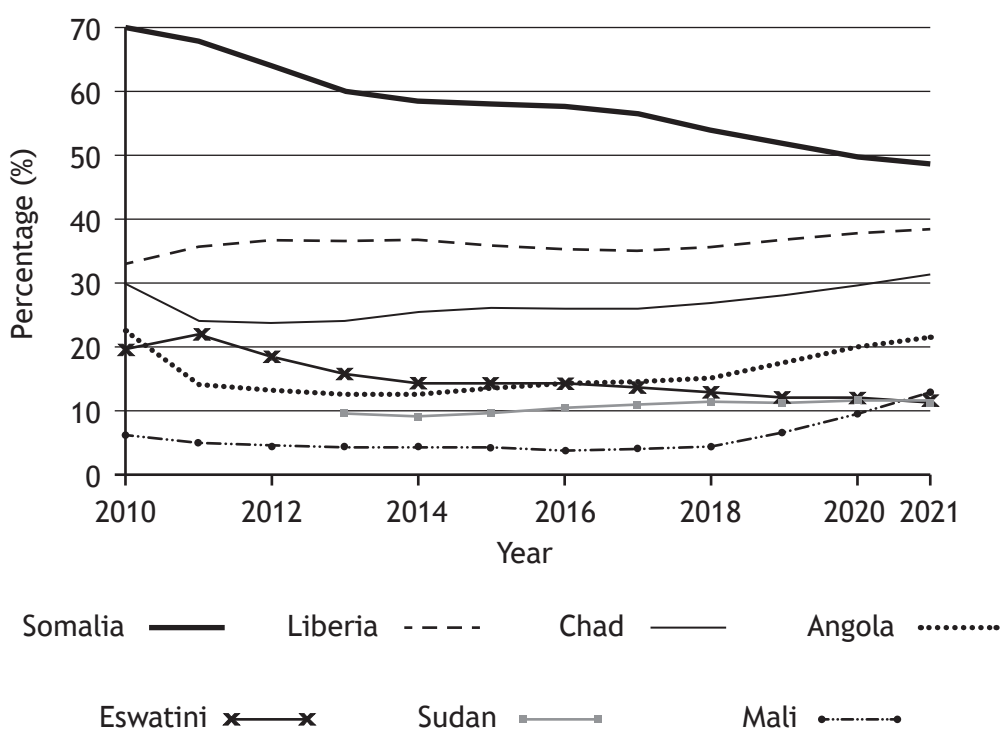
Question 1 (continued)

Source C

Statistics from selected Sub-Saharan African countries

Country	Population	Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	Number of internally displaced citizens	Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	Life expectancy (years)
Angola	37,885,849	\$265.0 billion	2,300,000	55.6	62.9
Chad	20,299,123	\$32.4 billion	380,000	62.5	60.0
Eswatini	1,242,822	\$12.8 billion	15,000	36.7	60.7
Liberia	5,612,817	\$8.8 billion	80,000	55.7	61.6
Mali	24,478,595	\$57.2 billion	375,000	57.4	63.2
Sudan	50,448,963	\$136.0 billion	6,500,000	40.6	67.8

Share of the population that is undernourished, 2010–2021



Question 1 (continued)

Source D

International response to the Somali conflict

There are a number of long-standing and violent armed conflicts happening around the world, but few are as complex as the conflict in Somalia. Large areas of southern Somalia are in crisis and are controlled by the terrorist group Al-Shabaab. In these areas, children face horrific human rights abuses, including sexual assault and attacks on their schools. The central government only controls small areas, with other regions of the country to the north attempting to break away and become independent nations. In this chaos, international support has been vital in saving the lives of innocent people.

The UN has been involved for decades in Somalia, dealing mainly with the humanitarian aspect of the crisis. For example, the UN Refugee Agency delivers lifesaving aid such as shelter, water and healthcare to people forced to flee their homes. The armed conflict in Somalia, especially in the south, has created over one million refugees. A combination of many of these factors has led to a low average life expectancy in Somalia of 57 years. In addition, the infant mortality rate in Somalia has risen to 84 deaths per 1,000 births.

The conflict in Somalia has also been deadly for international peacekeeping missions. Approximately 3,500 African Union peacekeepers have been killed over the last 15 years. In 2020, two UN humanitarian workers were shot dead by Al-Shabaab. These workers were providing critical health services to vulnerable citizens.

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

What conclusions can be drawn about armed conflict?

You must draw conclusions about:

- the impact of armed conflict on children in Somalia
- the link between armed conflict and undernourishment
- the success of the UN in providing aid in Somalia.

You must also make an overall conclusion on which Sub-Saharan African country is **most** like Somalia.

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[Turn over

Question 2

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

Source A

Problems facing the NHS

Healthcare in the UK was one of the most discussed issues during the 2024 General Election campaign. Politicians of all parties expressed their views on how the National Health Service (NHS) could be improved, with debates taking place on issues such as the level of spending on healthcare, drug costs, administration costs, staffing levels, training and pay. Hospital waiting times came in for particular criticism.

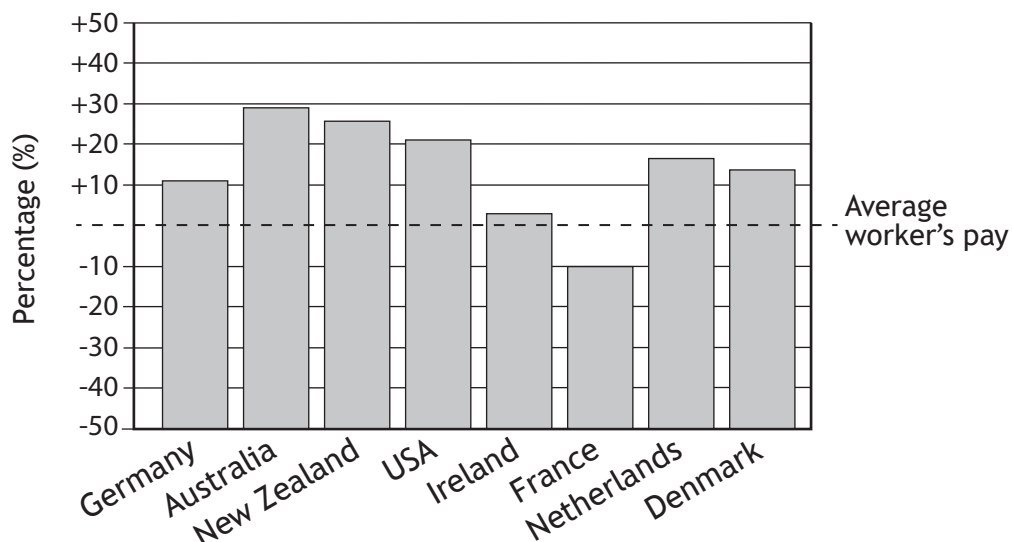
Opposition parties including Labour, the SNP and the Liberal Democrats argued that the NHS was in crisis and that it needed a lot more money invested in it to be as successful as the health services in other countries. They also claimed that the NHS was facing a record high vacancy rate for nurses. They argued that to help solve this, there needs to be a significant increase in wages to attract more UK students into the nursing profession in this country and to ensure qualified nurses remain here rather than move to similar jobs overseas. Over 1.5 million people are employed by the NHS, including 32 doctors for every 10,000 people which is considered too few to care for the growing number of patients.

Conservative politicians maintained that the NHS was a success under their recent governments. They claimed that one of their successes was spending more on medical staff and less on administration than other countries do.

Recent research by the charity The King's Fund, found that the UK spent around £4,181 per person, per year on healthcare. This equates health spending to around 11.9% of GDP (a country's total income). The King's Fund also stated that the cost of drugs and medicines in the UK is less of a problem than elsewhere in the world as the NHS tends to prescribe generic drugs and medicines rather than the more expensive branded alternatives, meaning it spends less on them.

Source B

Nurse's pay compared to average worker's pay



Question 2 (continued)

Source C

Selected 2023 health statistics					
Country	Number of hospitals	Doctors per 10,000 people	Life expectancy (years)	Adult obesity rate (%)	Percentage (%) share of health budget spent on administration
Germany	1,893	45	81.5	23.1	4.4
Australia	1,339	41	84.0	32.1	3.0
New Zealand	220	35	82.2	33.0	3.3
USA	6,120	36	79.4	41.6	9.0
Ireland	86	41	82.5	30.7	2.2
France	2,987	33	83.4	10.2	5.5
Netherlands	691	38	82.3	15.1	3.7
Denmark	59	43	82.0	15.7	4.6

Source D

The NHS — envy of the world?

The NHS is one of the most comprehensive healthcare systems in the world and has provided free, high-quality care to millions of people since its inception. The UK public have always strongly supported the principles and ideals of the NHS with some even going as far as to say it is the envy of the world. However, the NHS has increasingly faced criticism, although it is true to say that its problems are not unique. Like the UK, other countries whose health systems are held in high regard are facing similar issues, such as the rising demand from ageing populations.

A particular challenge facing the NHS is the widespread shortage of nurses. Many nurses leave the UK for nursing jobs abroad as they say that pay, terms and conditions are better overseas. UK nurses earn 1% less than the average UK worker.

People in the UK receive good protection from some of the catastrophic costs of falling ill. Most core NHS services are free at the point of delivery and certain population groups, such as the elderly, children and the terminally ill are exempt from charges. As the UK spends 1.9% of its health budget on administration, it is arguably more efficient than the systems in other countries.

It has been suggested that the problems facing the NHS can be judged against the healthcare systems of other countries by comparing crucial health outcomes such as how long people live for. In this regard, the UK's overall life expectancy was 81.4 years in 2023.

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



To what extent is it accurate to state that the problems facing healthcare in the UK are worse than in other countries?

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Question 3

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

Source A



Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP): The Story So Far - May 2023

Summary

Minimum unit pricing for alcohol (MUP) was implemented in May 2018 at a rate of 50p per unit. The policy is subject to a sunset clause, which means it will lapse unless renewed by the Scottish Parliament by end of April 2024.

Evaluation so far shows that by reducing alcohol consumption, **MUP has delivered its overall purpose of reducing alcohol-related harm.**

- It is estimated that **MUP has saved 268 lives and averted 899 hospital admissions** each year, on average.

Source: Adapted from the Alcohol Focus Scotland website (a charity that works to reduce the harm caused by alcohol).

Source B

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Scotched: Whisky industry fails to halt Scotland's plan for minimum alcohol price

Opposition by Scotch Whisky Association thrown out by Edinburgh's highest court

Mark McLaughlin, Hilary Duncanson • Friday 03 May 2013 14:34 BST • Comments 📖 f 🐦 ✉️

Source: The Independent newspaper, online.

Question 3 (continued)

Source C



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

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Publication - Research and analysis

Alcohol - minimum unit pricing: public attitudes research

Published: 20 September 2023

Directorate: [Population Health Directorate](#)

Topic: [Health and social care](#)

ISBN: **9781835213285**

This report presents the findings from research into public attitudes to minimum unit pricing (MUP) of alcohol in Scotland in July 2023. The research found that respondents were slightly more likely to be in favour of MUP than against

Source: The Scottish Government (research conducted by Ipsos, an international polling company).

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.

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