**Scottish Sentencing Council Teaching Resources**

**Teacher Guide**

**Advanced Higher Modern Studies: Social Issues, Law and Order**

[www.scottishsentencingcouncil.org.uk](http://www.scottishsentencingcouncil.org.uk)

[sentencingcouncil@scotcourts.gov.uk](mailto:sentencingcouncil@scotcourts.gov.uk)

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The activities below are relevant to study theme **A: Understanding the criminal justice system** and also to the **Dissertation**title:

* Scotland’s court system is efficient and effective in dealing with crime and criminality.The activities also provide some practice of evaluating **research methods.**

Resources on the Scottish Sentencing Council Website:

<https://www.scottishsentencingcouncil.org.uk>

Consultations > Principles and Purposes of Sentencing

**Objective:** Candidates can examine and evaluate the work of the Scottish Sentencing Council in their consultation on the principles and purposes of sentencing. Candidates must consider the importance of clarifying the purposes and principles of sentencing and review the research methods of the consultation exercise.

**Research Methods Task**

Go to the Consultation section of the Scottish Sentencing Council website:

<https://www.scottishsentencingcouncil.org.uk/consultations/principles-and-purposes-of-sentencing/>

Look at the following sources on this page: *Consultation Analysis* and *Consultation Responses.*

Work in pairs/as part of a small group/as individuals to consider the following:

* What is the purpose of this consultation exercise in regards to the aims of the Scottish Sentencing Council?
* Review the respondents to this consultation exercise. Evaluate the extent to which relevant parties were involved in this consultation.
* How does the fact that some responses are anonymous influence your assessment of the consultation?
* What kind of research method was used in this consultation?
* To what extent was this the best research method for the Scottish Sentencing Council to use to gather information about its principles and purposes of sentencing?
* To what extent can this source be considered trustworthy?
* What role does the Scottish Sentencing Council take in the judicial system?

**Scottish Sentencing Council**

**Parliament House**

**Parliament Square**

**Edinburgh**

**EH1 1RQ**

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