



Project Qualification

P201

Standardisation

Summer 2019

Portfolio

Exercise 1

Candidate Record Sheet - Level 1 Foundation & 2 Higher Projects

Learner Name		Learner number	
Centre Name		Centre Number	
Unit Name	Higher Project	Unit Number	P201

A form should be completed for each candidate and submitted with the work for moderation.

Project checklist

The final Project should include the following items:

- a Project Proposal Form
- a Project activity log or diary
- records of research carried out (which could be included within the project outcome or given separately)
- the Project Outcome
- an evaluation

Project Contents

Please list the format of the items submitted as part of the Project, note whether this evidence is shared with other candidates and if so who (A4 Report, portfolio, sketchbook, CD of sound track, DVD of play/film, video, etc)

A4 report

Authentication confirmation/consent

Candidate: I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge that this work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has been produced without any assistance beyond that recorded and allowed by the scheme of assessment. • is not work which has been or will be submitted for another qualification. I also agree to my coursework being used to support Professional Development, Online Support and Training of both Centre-Assessors and Edexcel Moderators.	Signature:
Teacher: I confirm that the learner's work was conducted under the conditions laid out by the specification. I have authenticated the learner's work and am satisfied that to the best of my knowledge the work produced is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • solely that of the learner • is not work that has been or will be submitted for another qualification. 	

Teacher - Assessor marks and supporting comments

Comments related to the assessment criteria which support the mark awarded for each Assessment Objective should be entered on the grid below.

Assessment Objective	Teacher-Assessor comments	Teacher-Assessor Mark	Moderator Mark
AO1 Manage (7 marks) Comment:			
AO2 Use Resources (9 marks) Comment:			
AO3 Develop and Realise (17 marks) Comment:			
AO4 Review (7 marks) Comment:			
	Total Mark	/40	/40

A form should be completed for each candidate and submitted with the work for moderation.

Candidate Record Sheet - Level 1 Foundation & 2 Higher Projects

Learner Name _____

Learner number _____

Centre Name _____

Centre Number _____

Unit Name

NPQ

Unit Number

1201

Project checklist

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Project Contents

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- solely that of the learner
- is not work that has been or will be submitted for another qualification.

Signature:

Print Name *in block capitals please:*

Teacher - Assessor marks and supporting comments

Comments related to the assessment criteria which support the mark awarded for each Assessment Objective should be entered on the grid below.

Assessment Objective	Teacher-Assessor comments	Teacher-Assessor Mark	Moderator Mark
AO1 Manage (7 marks) Comment:	A full, detailed plan, with thoughtful reasons. The bg is reasonably full though more detail of problems could be given, and more detail of resources to be used. Independent work so bonus awarded	5+1 (6)	
AO2 Use Resources (9 marks) Comment:	Good range and depth of research Excellent source analysis Sources evaluated for reliability Good citations + bibliography No primary research. Independent work so bonus awarded	7+1 (8)	
AO3 Develop and Realise (17 marks) Comment:	The discussion section shows some loss of focus and does not really develop an argument so much as a set of recommendations. It does however demonstrate a good understanding and provide a sensible case that could apply to the US. The project is well-written Independent work so bonus mark awarded	11+1 (12)	
AO4 Review (7 marks) Comment:	Conclusions with evidence are provided. There is consideration of lessons learned, skills acquired and possible alterations. No mention of extensions or peer feedback. Independent work so bonus mark awarded	4+1 (5)	
Total Mark		(31) /40	/40

Should Firearms Legislation In The United States of America Be More Restrictive?

Introduction

The sport of shooting and firearms ownership is a controversial topic in the international news and especially in the United States of America where firearms represent the freedom of American citizens. Firearms control legislation is an important topic to discuss due to the number of people that are murdered at devastating events such as mass shootings and more recently school shootings. More restrictive firearms legislation is a vital step to making firearms crime a thing of the past in the US. Removing and restricting civilian ownership of firearms in the US is a controversial topic which holds extreme views at both ends, on the one hand, many Americans argue that they have a constitutional right to "bear arms" and by the general populous owning firearms for self-defense, it protects law-abiding citizens them from criminals. On the other hand, some Americans argue that all firearms should be banned due to the devastation that they cause during events such as school shootings and mass shootings. firearms offer both very positive things to the population such as protection such as valuable shooting scholarships to ivy league universities and protection from crime. However, there is a cost to this that some people pay with their lives at the hands of criminals and mass shooters.

In this dissertation, I will investigate firearms legislation in the US using multiple, diverse, reputable and accurate sources. I will then go on to suggest changes to the current legislation which could lead to a safer firearms community in the US. These suggested changes will also reduce the number of firearms-related crimes in the US and the lethality of mass and school shootings. In this dissertation, I will ultimately answer the question of "Should firearms law in the US be more restrictive?". My initial view on this question is yes, firearms law should be significantly more restrictive in the US. This is due to the number of mass and school shootings that have occurred in the US over recent years. The US also has the majority of firearms-related deaths internationally per year. Therefore, it is necessary to enact significantly more restrictive firearms legislation in the USA.

Research Review

Against

During my research, I have found four well-supported arguments against changing firearms legislation in the USA and making them less restrictive which will be outlined in this section.

The first argument against making firearms legislation more restrictive comes from "Just Facts". Their argument is that banning firearms for personal defence makes citizens more likely to become a victim of a violent crime (**Agresti, J. D. (2018)**). This is shown from a survey carried out in 1982 of male felons in 11 state prisons across the US. This research supports the argument because "40%" of felons decided not to commit a crime because they "believed that the victim was carrying a gun". This research also shows that "34%" of felons had been "scared off, shot at, wounded or captured" by an armed citizen. This research clearly proves that citizens carrying firearms are less vulnerable to crimes being committed against them and that unarmed citizens are more vulnerable to crimes being committed against them. This source is very reliable as Just Facts is a nonprofit "501(c)3" organization and therefore "Just Facts" will not be trying to "market" their research for financial gain. This means that the research will probably be unbiased. Just Facts is also a private company and will, therefore, be less vulnerable to government bias, however, this means that they will be more vulnerable to bias from the personal views of their investors. Just Facts is a reputable source due to its international citations from universities such as Vanderbilt University in the USA and also the National University of Singapore. This means that the source has an excellent reputation and would not want to have its reputation reduced so will try to maintain high standards of scrutiny in its sources and research. However, some could argue that this research is invalid as it was completed in 1982 which is nearly four decades ago and statistics may be different now.

Good
depth of
investigation
A07, M82

The second argument for making firearms legislation less restrictive is put forward by an article from the "British Broadcasting Company". Their argument is that many pro-gun advocates, teachers, the NRA (National Rifle Association) and the US government are saying that the gun laws need to be less restrictive on teachers and that teachers should be permitted to carrying firearms for self-defense when they are at work (**BBC, 2018**). The reason for this is that the NRA believes that "The only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is with a good guy with a gun." The NRA also says that less restrictive firearms law don't stop at schools as Adam Skaggs, chief counsel at the Gifford Law Centre, points out saying, "It's not just pushing the idea that people need guns in schools to be safe, it's the idea that people need guns everywhere - city streets, public parks, even government buildings." Many people argue that allowing teachers to carry guns is even more important in rural areas where police response times are slow and ineffective in the incident of an active shooter. As of 2017 Fleming High School in Colorado have teachers and other school staff carrying firearms. These teachers have had thorough background checks and have also been on a firearms training course led by a former SWAT officer, Quinn

Cunningham. The three-day course, "Faster", trains teachers safe firearms handling, advanced first aid and what to do in a range of emergencies in an educational environment. The course also helps teachers prepare emotionally for the possibility that they might have to shoot a student of their own in order to protect others. This article concludes by saying firearms law should be less restrictive for not only teachers but all citizens in the US. This source is quite reliable as it comes from the "BBC" which is an international news agency that has high standards to adhere to and a high reputation which it would not want to wreck. However, there is the possibility for some political bias as it is a government-funded organisation that may take the government's viewpoint on political issues.

The third argument against making firearms law more restrictive is put forward by J.R Lott Ph.D. UCLA. Dr. Lott argues that civilians having firearms prevents crime. This is shown by the results of a survey conducted in correctional facilities in ten different states which showed that 56% of criminals would not commit a crime on an armed civilian. This shows that "open carrying" a firearm (where the firearm is holstered in a position that is visible to people around you) would benefit all citizens. Therefore the firearms legislation in the US should be less restrictive and firearms easier to obtain. He also says that accidental shootings by licensed firearms are "A rare event." Only 30 people are accidentally killed by a licensed firearms holder who mistakes a household member or visitor as an intruder per year in the US. In contrast, there are 330 people killed accidentally by the police each year in the US. Lott also says, "In many defensive cases a handgun is simply brandished and no one is harmed, many defensive uses are never even reported to the police." This implies that in most cases firearms do not use deadly force to protect the owner and in most cases, they are only used as a visual deterrent. This source is quite reliable as Dr. Lott has a reputable education from Ivy League universities such as Yale and has the connections and means to obtain accurate and reliable research on this subject. He also has a very large media presence which shows that he has a high reputation to uphold in order to maintain his successful career. There could be political bias as it is an individual writing a book and everyone has certain political views.

The final argument against making firearms legislation more restrictive is put forward by an article on "Procon". Their argument is that restricting gun laws "Will not prevent criminals from obtaining guns or breaking laws with them." This is because, in the 62 mass shootings in the USA between 1982 and 2012, over 25% of the firearms used were obtained illegally. The Bureau of Justice further backs up "Procon's" point by releasing a statistic in May 2013 that revealed over 37% of state prison inmates whom used or possessed a firearm while committing a crime obtained the firearm illegally from a family member or a friend. This shows that by restricting firearms it will not prevent gun crime completely and could leave

clear
understanding
of
reliability
AO?, MB?

law-abiding firearms owners unable to defend themselves from an armed attacker. John R. Lott, Ph.D. supports this by saying, "The problem with such laws is that they take away guns from law-abiding citizens, while would-be criminals ignore them." The article also says that gun control doesn't work. This is based upon Chicago banning gun shops, shooting ranges, assault weapons and high capacity magazines in 2014. This ban was ineffective as the city still had very high gun crime rates with over 2,000 shooting victims, 390 firearms related homicides and over 50,000 firearms recovered by police between 2001 and 2012. Over half of these firearms came from outside Illinois. This source is reliable because the statistics come from a government organisation which would provide the means to accurate and reliable statistics. However, due to "Procon" being a government organisation it could be biased because it is funded and run by the government and would, therefore, lean towards the viewpoints of the government.

FOR

In my research, I have also come across four well-supported arguments for making firearms legislation more restrictive in the United States which I will discuss in this section.

The first argument for making firearms legislation more restrictive is put forward by the "New England Journal of Medicine". Their argument for making firearms law more restrictive is that by restricting handgun ownership, homicide and suicide rates significantly decrease. This is shown by analysing how the homicide and suicide statistics changed when a law was passed requiring all handguns to be licensed in Washington D.C. The statistics showed a 25% reduction in firearms-related homicides and a 23% reduction in firearms-related suicides in the area. The suicide and homicide statistics in the nearby metropolitan areas in Virginia and Maryland where restrictive licensing did not apply showed no such change which proves that it was the law being put into place that affected the homicide and suicide rates and not a national drop in incidents. This data suggests that by restricting access to firearms in the Washington D.C area prevented an average of 47 deaths each year after the law was passed in September 1976. The New England Journal of Medicine is a reputable source because it is the oldest continuously published medical journal internationally and among one of the most prestigious medical journals in the USA. It is regulated by the FDA and published by the Massachusetts Medical Society. It has the resources and facilities to obtain accurate and reliable information. It could have a bias towards the liberal party as reported in the Boston Globe by Dr. Jeffrey M. Drazen whom also claimed that their research was "not open enough" and "errors were often made".

Well applied
Apr, 182

The second argument for making firearms legislation more restrictive comes from an article on the "BBC". Their argument is that "arming teachers is a bad solution to the wrong problem." This argument is supported by many groups such as the "Campaign to Keep Guns Off Campus". The reason for this argument is that many believe that the real problem is that it is too easy for untrained individuals to get firearms, such as potential school shooters. Mr. Skaggs, chief counsel from the Gifford Law Centre, believes that the best solution to the gun crime problem in America is that, "we should be talking about stopping kids getting their hands on guns in the first place,". Mr. Skaggs along with many others argue that firearms should be held more securely at homes as in some states firearms law only dictates that the guns should be out of plain sight. This gives easy access to persons who know that the residents have guns such as in the case of the Benton shooter in Kentucky where the shooter simply took the firearm and ammunition from his parent's cupboard which he later used to shoot multiple people at his school. Another argument put forward in this article is that many school staff such as Jim Ananich opposed the bill of arming teachers saying that the "overwhelming majority" of his colleges at the school would not support the idea. This is backed up by a survey carried out in 2013 by the National Education Society. The results were that only "22% of teachers said they approved of the idea of arming staff." This statistic is backed up by another survey held by the NEA later in the same year "72% of teachers said that they would not want to carry a gun even if the law allowed." This shows that the teachers and staff in schools that would be actually carrying the firearms are not very supportive of the idea that they would be responsible for protecting their students from a shooter. Many also argue that the three days of training offered under the "Faster" program are nowhere near to how long teachers should be training in order to carry firearms in a school environment. Many also say that teachers are "much more likely to shoot a bystander, a police officer, or a child." This source is quite reliable as it is on the BBC which is a reputable news agency that has a very good reputation which it would not want to see destroyed. However, there is the possibility for some bias as it is a government funded agency and therefore might take the government's viewpoint on political issues.

The third argument for making firearms legislation more restrictive comes from an article on "Procon". This article argues that gun control laws should be restricted because "Countries with restrictive gun control laws have lower firearms-related homicide and suicide rates." This is because of the gun crime rates in the US compared to gun crime rates in other countries such as Switzerland and Finland. Both of these countries require firearms owners to acquire licenses, go through thorough mental health and criminal records background investigations before being granted a firearms permit. The US in 2007 had "88.8 firearms per 100 people"

and in 2007 had 12,632 firearms-related homicides. In contrast, Switzerland has half as many firearms per 100 people at "45.7 guns per 100 people", however, in 2009 Switzerland only had 24 firearms related homicides, which is much less than half of the statistics for the US firearms-related homicides. This shows that it is not guns that kill people but that guns in the hands of irresponsible people that kill people. It has also been found that internationally, over 82% of all firearms-related deaths occurred in the USA. This source is very reliable because it is a government organisation and has high standards and strict regulations. This source could, however, be biased as it is a government agency and so would, therefore, support government views.

The final argument for restricting firearms legislation comes from "Vox". Their argument is that it is guns that are the problem and not mentally ill people like the US government suggest. They say that guns rights activists say that mentally ill people that get their hands on illegal firearms are the reason that there are still mass shootings in the US, whereas the research proves otherwise. Research from Michael Stone, a psychiatrist from Columbia University shows that only 22% of the killers at mass shootings had a mental illness according to a database at Columbia University with the records of mass shooters. In the conclusion of his research, Dr. Stone concludes that the mentally ill are not the "chief perpetrators" of mass shootings. Dylan Matthews agrees with Dr. Stone and also says that "people with mental illnesses are more likely to be victims, not perpetrators, of violence". This source proves that the Mentally ill are not to blame for the mass shootings in America, firearms are and more restrictive guns laws are required to prevent future mass shootings. Vox is an American, left-wing news agency and so will support the views of Liberals more than the views of conservatives. However, their reporting is mostly factual and very credible. Vox is a subsidiary of "Vox Media" which is a very prosperous company and so will have the means to gather accurate, reliable statistics and other research. Vox Media also has a credible reputation which it would not want to wreck.

Discussion

In this section, I will discuss my views on the topic of how restrictive gun control legislation should be in the US. This section will cover why it is not necessary to completely ban firearms, how firearms licenses should be issued, how firearms should be stored and finally what firearms citizens should be able to own. I will also cover how the government could afford to make these extensive and expensive

changes. Since legally owned firearms are not the only firearms problem, this section will also look at how illegal firearms could be kept off American streets.

Firstly, It is necessary for the firearms legislation in the US to be significantly more restrictive. There are a number of reasons why it is so important to restrict firearms more in the US. One reason for this is because it is unnecessary to have military grade weapons for sporting or self-defence purposes. Another reason to make firearms law in the US more restrictive is that many other countries that allow citizens to own firearms do not have nearly as many firearms related homicides as the US. This shows that by making the firearms legislation more restrictive it will make everybody safer. It is not, however, necessary to ban all firearms as this will improve, but not completely resolve the problem of firearms-related crime and in some cases, banning all firearms could make firearms-related crime worse. Certain firearms should be legal to be owned by citizens but, in order for any civilian to own a firearm, they should have to acquire a license or permit from local or state law enforcement in order to do so. This is so that only responsible persons with good intentions can acquire firearms, which, can provide the means to take somebody's life. In order to keep the public safe, it is therefore vital for firearms legislation in the US to be more restrictive. It is important to have a national firearms database which keeps track of all legal firearms in the country and where they are. This is so that law enforcement can keep track of who owns firearms, where they are and if there is a crime committed with a firearm on the database, the police can question the owner. This also means that law enforcement officers on patrol can easily identify if people that they are stopping are armed or not. this may reduce the number of unarmed people being shot by law enforcers was officers accidentally. Illegal firearms are a major problem that cannot be solved with new legislation. In order to keep illegal firearms of American streets, it is necessary to spend more resources on black-market enforcement.

With regards to firearms licensing, it should be required that every license holder is free from any criminal convictions and any civil convictions that could indicate that the license holder is a possible threat to public safety. Candidates should also have thorough medical health checks to ensure that the candidate is physically fit enough to handle a firearm safely. Candidates should also have to go through thorough mental health investigations to ensure that the candidate does not have any mental health conditions that could make them a possible risk to public safety. To assure that the candidate can responsibly and safely use a firearm, they should have to prove that they have had shooting tuition with a government approved firearms instructor. This will ensure that the candidate knows, safe firearms handling, cleaning, and transportation. The candidate should have to prove that they are of good character by giving references from others about what they are like as a person. Candidates should have to give references from a parent or member of their immediate family, their employer, work college/teacher (if under 18) and from a

help
written
103, 102

friend that they have known for over two years. The reason for having to know this friend for over two years is so that the friend can give an accurate and reliable evaluation of the candidate. By having references from a diverse range of people who know the candidate, it will ensure that the candidate is a responsible person to own a firearm and is at minimum risk to public safety. By taking references from a wide range of people who know the candidate it will ensure that the police get a complete and accurate view of the candidate. It is not necessary to have an age limit on owning firearms. This is due to teaching children at an appropriate age to safely and responsibly use small caliber firearms, it will prevent accidental discharges of firearms and will, therefore, prevent kids accidentally shooting each other with their parents' firearms which, has been the case in many accidental deaths in the US. In order to acquire a license or permit, the candidate should have to have "good reason" to own a firearm and also proof of this reason. An example of a "good reason" is that a candidate would like to acquire an over and under (double-barreled, designed for sporting use) shotgun to shoot clay pigeons. To prove this the candidate could provide a shooting club membership card or a reference from their registered, state-approved firearms instructor. This would be considered a "good reason" however if the candidate wanted to acquire a pistol for the same purpose then this would not be considered "good reason" because a pistol is not a practical firearm to use for this application. Finally, before being issued with a firearms license the candidate should be interviewed by a local firearms officer who will ensure that the candidate is aware of the legal responsibilities involved with firearms ownership. The officer will also ensure that the candidate has appropriate storage for their firearms. The firearms officer will have biannually follow up interviews to ensure that the candidate is still suitable to own a firearm.

With regards to storing firearms, all firearms should have to be stored securely in a gun safe or secure gun room that is locked by at least two separate locks. The number of locks/bolts and overall durability of the gun room or gun cabinet should be determined by the number of firearms the gun safe is storing as well as the type of firearms it is storing. For example, a gun cabinet that was only storing one air rifle would not have to be very secure however a gun cabinet that had multiple semi-automatic rifles would have to be very secure. The gun safe should be out of view from a window or visitors (such as plumbers and gasmen). The safe should be bolted or secured to the wall and floor, this will prevent criminals from stealing the safe. The local law enforcement should have access to the safe whether that be knowing the combination or having a spare key to the safe. The reason for this is because if the owner loses the key the local law enforcement can access the firearms with ease and move the firearms to a secure location until the key is found or the locks have been changed. The property that the firearms are stored in should have an alarm or security system and also an independent alarm on the safe that alerts the police if the property is broken in to or the safe is tampered with. This will ensure that if the property is broken into, the police can get the property quickly and

apprehend the criminals, therefore preventing firearms from getting into the wrong hands. By having firearms in locked safes as opposed to just out of plain sight it prevents relatives and friends from accessing the firearms and using them in a negative way as was the case in many US school shootings.

On the topic of what firearms a citizen should be able to own, in order to own any firearm, the owner should have to prove "good reason" for owning it and that they use it regularly. This is so that people are not buying firearms for the sake of having them and that they use them for a safe and responsible purpose. The laws on this would differ if they were a firearms collector. A collector would not necessarily shoot the firearms regularly or at all, because of this is, if you were a collector you would have the trigger mechanism and firing action removed from the firearm so that the firearm could not be shot. As a collector, you would still have to go through the same investigation as a firearms permit holder. This is because deactivated firearms can be reactivated and therefore shot again. Imitation firearms such as blank firing firearms, airsoft guns, and paintball guns should be legal without a license but should have to have transparent magazines to ensure that no live munitions are loaded and they should be painted a bright colour to ensure that they are not mistaken for real firearms. If a candidate wanted to have realistic looking imitation firearms that did not have bright paint on them, they should have to acquire a license to do so. This will ensure that criminals do not use imitation firearms to scare people while committing a crime. This will also ensure that people enjoying the sport of airsoft or paintball do not get mistaken by police as people using real weapons and, therefore, accidentally shot by law enforcement.

On the topic of what live (real) firearms people should be able to own, it is necessary to have different legislation on ownership of firearms for self-defense and ownership for sporting or hunting reasons. Therefore, this paragraph only focuses on owning firearms for sporting or hunting reasons. Firstly, all fully automatic firearms should be illegal. This is because it is impossible to prove "good reason" for owning them for a sporting or hunting application. All types of air weapons that have an impact of less than 12ft/lb upon impact should be legal. This is because, with air weapons of this low power, it is hard to use them as an effective offensive weapon against another person due to their relatively low power, however, these weapons are useful in schools and on small ranges to teach people how to shoot weapons responsibly and safely. Low power air weapons can also be used for pest control in confined areas such as barns and sheds due to their low penetrating power. All single action firearms should be legal as it is hard for these firearms to be used effectively to engage offensively on multiple people due to their slow reload times, low magazine capacity and slow target acquisition times. Single action weapons are often used as target rifles on ranges or for deer stalking and so could be used responsibly and safely for this purpose. All semi-automatic firearms should be legal but they should be heavily regulated. On the topic of semi-automatic weapons, the owner should

have to acquire a different type of license which has more thorough training and background check requirements. The owner should also be part of shooting club that partakes in the firing of semi-automatic firearms. They should have to go through firearms recertification every six months to prove that they can still handle the firearm safely. This would reduce the chance of deaths being caused by accidental discharges or improper use of the weapon. The same sort of legislation should be applied to handguns. The reason it is necessary for such strict legislation around semi-automatic firearms and handguns is because most firearms of this type are designed to kill people or be used for a military application, therefore they would be an effective offensive weapon. Handguns are easily concealed and so it would be easy to carry them illegally. This is why it is vital that these firearms should be heavily regulated and arduous to acquire.

On the subject of owning firearms for self-defence and therefore carrying firearms in public, it should be very heavily regulated and there should be strict training requirements as well as extensive background checks. This is because owning and carrying firearms that are designed to kill people and carrying them in a public place can pose a risk to public safety if the person carrying it has bad intentions or inadequate training. To acquire a firearm for the purpose of self-defense it is necessary for a citizen to go through at least two weeks of full-time training every 6 months and should have to have at least one hour of "range time" per week. This is to ensure that the owner has the correct training to defend themselves and others. This extra training will also make it unlikely for them to miss and accidentally shoot an innocent bystander. In order to own a firearm for self-defense, I think that it is also vital to have training and certification in advanced first aid, this means that if the criminal has already shot someone or injured someone, they can treat the victim and possibly save their life. It also means that if the owner has no other option than to shoot a criminal they can even save the criminals life so that they can be handed over to the appropriate authorities. Shooting someone in self-defence should always be a last (but sometimes necessary) resort and so a firearms owner should be trained in de-escalating the situation. By making it so hard to acquire a permit to carry a handgun for a self-defense application and even harder to keep it, it will make it very hard for potential criminals to acquire firearms.

On the topic of what someone should be able to carry to defend themselves, citizens should only be able to carry single stack handguns (where the magazine only has one "stack" of ammunition as opposed to two "stacks" where the munitions are laid diagonally). This will prevent citizens from being able to acquire full sized military issue weapons and will limit them to smaller pistols which would be impractical to use in an offensive capacity but very useful in a self-defense scenario. It is also necessary for citizens to "conceal carry" their weapon. By only allowing concealed carry and outlawing open carry it will protect people carrying firearms as it will prevent armed criminals from targeting firearms holders. By having people carry

their firearms in a concealed manner it also means that they will maintain the "element of surprise" on the criminal that they are using the firearm against, this means that the intervention will be more effective as the criminal will have less time to react to someone having a firearm. The final point on the topic of owning a firearm for self-defense is on the subject of carrying larger weapons such as rifles and shotguns in vehicles. It is necessary for this practice to be outlawed as it is unlikely that the owner will be within reach of this weapon when they need it, also by having a weapon in a vehicle it means that if a criminal were to break into a car with a weapon in it, rather than just stealing a phone or a wallet they would be stealing a weapon that is designed to kill people. Considering the police would be unaware that this person had the weapon, they would pose a huge risk to public safety.

The final point in this section is on the question of who would pay for it. These significant but necessary changes will be expensive and it is necessary that the firearms community funds these changes. This is because it would anger taxpayers that do not have an interest in firearms if they were paying for something that may not benefit them. It is necessary for candidates pursuing a firearms permit to pay for all of their training, range time, recertification, background checks and also for the administration charges. This would ensure that it would not require raised taxes and would, therefore, be popular with the taxpayer.

Conclusion

Some development of
argument. Good understanding
AO3, but MB2

In conclusion to this dissertation, It is necessary for firearms legislation in the US should be significantly more restrictive than it currently is. This is due to the US accounting for the majority of firearms related homicides in the world, With over 12,632 firearms homicides in 2007. It is not, however, necessary to completely ban firearms due to other countries such as the UK, Switzerland, and Denmark having large firearms communities but few firearms-related crime. An example of this is in Switzerland, only having 24 firearms related homicides in 2009. Some people may argue that this is because Switzerland have significantly fewer firearms in than in the US. This is partly true as the US have 88 guns per 100 people and Switzerland have just over half of that figure with 45.7 firearms per 100 people. However, the number of homicides in Switzerland compared to the US is much less than half. Switzerland have just over one-tenth of the homicides that the US have (at 0.19%).

It is not the quantity of firearms in the US or the type of firearms, the problem is how easy it is for citizens to acquire firearms. This problem can be easily resolved by Switzerland's example and therefore licensing all firearms. In order for a citizen to

Conclusion
with
evidence
AO4, MB2

acquire this licensing, an individual should go through thorough criminal, mental health, and physical health background checks, as well as go through state-approved firearms training in order to acquire a firearm for a sporting or hunting purposes. In order to obtain a firearm for self-defence or a pistol, the individual should go through further training and more extensive background checks. Firearms should also be required to be stored securely in gun safes or secured gun rooms. By having more restrictive legislation put in place it would greatly reduce the number of firearms-related homicides, suicides and would also greatly reduce the lethality of school and mass shootings.

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<https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2016/04/05/new-england-journal-medicine-increasingly-targeted-critics/9H3JFKzTNJpCsOQqUNXJP/story.html>
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BBC, (2018). *After another deadly school shooting, is it time for US teachers to carry guns?* Available at:
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Procon, (2017). *Should more gun control laws be enacted?* Available at:

Good
range of
sources;
2 types;
good
bibliography
A07, M57

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Vox, (2018). *I've covered gun violence for years. The solutions aren't a big mystery.*

Available at:

<https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2018/2/21/17028930/gun-violence-us-statistics-charts>

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Media Check, (2018). Vox.

Available at:

<https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/vox/>

(Accessed: 10th May 2018)

Evaluation

Looking back on my project, I realize how much I have learned by researching this topic that I am very much interested in. This project has been really enjoyable compared to some other academic work because it gave me the chance to work on something that I am really passionate about, therefore, I have very much enjoyed working on this project. I have learned a lot about American firearms legislation and the statistics surrounding the illegal use of them (homicides). some of these statistics are very worrying and have drastically changed my views on firearms control. As well as developing my knowledge in the subject I have also developed my knowledge and technique in project work. I have learned how to properly structure, credit and write an academic dissertation. All of this new knowledge will greatly help me during my EPQ and it will also help me with future projects that I will carry out.

I have learned a lot of things that I can apply next time I carry out a research project. If I could do three things differently on this project I would proofread more regularly, make better research notes and I would also keep more "on top of" my activity log. Next time I will proofread more regularly because I have learned that by leaving all of the proofreading until completion of the dissertation, it takes much longer to accurately proofread everything and I also tend to miss things as there is more to proofread. Next time I will proofread after I have completed each paragraph so that I can save time and be more accurate with my proofreading. Next time I will make better research notes. This is because I have learned that having to read the whole article, again and again, looking for small bits of information, it takes up more time

rather than noting down the key points in the article that I am going to use. Next time I will make good research notes to save time when writing my research review. Finally, next time I will stay more "on top of" my activity log. This is because I have learned that by leaving the activity log and not writing down what I have done accurately every time it takes a long time when proofreading my activity log to correct everything. by not completing the activity log on the day I did it, I also lose accuracy. Next time I will stay up to date with my activity log in order to save time and remain accurate.

Project Proposal form

Learner Name _____ Learner number _____

Centre Name _____ Centre Number _____

Teacher Assessor _____ Date _____

Unit HPQ

Proposed project title Should firearms legislation in the United States of America be more restrictive?

Section One: Title, objective, responsibilities

Title or working title of project (in the form of a question, commission or design brief)

Should firearms legislation in the United States of America be more restrictive? ✓

Project objectives (eg, what is the question you want to answer? What do you want to learn how to do? What do you want to find out?):

I would like to answer the question of "Should firearms legislation in the USA be more restrictive?"

I would like to learn how to conduct efficient, accurate and reliable research, therefore enhancing my current research skills.

I would like to learn correctly reference sources in an academic piece of writing.

I would like to grow my understanding of firearms and the legislation around them in the US.

I would like to find possible solutions to the firearms problem in the US and discuss them in detail.

I would also like to investigate the views of Americans on the topic of firearms.

I would also like to investigate what is happening about the firearms problem.

good objectives A01, M02 /

If it is a group project, what will your responsibilities be?

N/A

Section Two: Reasons for choosing this project

Reasons for choosing the project (eg, links to other subjects you are studying, personal interest, future plans, knowledge/skills you want to improve, why the topic is important):

I have an interest in shooting as a sport and researching in their area will help me learn more about what shooting is like in different countries. I also have an interest in law and researching law will help me find out more about the facts and myths behind US firearms law.

clear, specific + thoughtful
AOL, MBZ

Section Three: Activities and timescales

Activities to be carried out during the project (eg, research, development and analysis of ideas, writing, data collection, numerical analysis, rehearsal techniques, production meetings, production of final outcome, administration, evaluation, preparing for the presentation, etc):

How long this will take:
40 hours Total.

PLAN

Complete project proposal form.
Proofread project proposal form.
Plan research and gather sources.
Plan layout for my dissertation.

2 hours

RESEARCH

Skim read sources.
Shortlist top 8 sources.
Read top 8 sources in depth.
Interpret resources and pull out any useful statistics.
Make notes of key points.

7 hours

DEVELOP

Reduce key points to points to outline in dissertation.
Shortlist arguments on both sides for discussion.

5 hours

WRITE

Write research review.
Write discussion section.
Write introduction.
Write conclusion
Complete the Bibliography

20 hours

REVIEW

Make weekly updates to my Activity log.
Note down evaluation.
Write evaluation.
Proofread and check dissertation before submission.

6 hours

Appropriate
order
AOL, MBZ

Milestone one: research review

Target date (set by tutor-assessor): 18th March

Milestone two: discussion section

Target date (set by tutor-assessor): 8th may

Milestone three: Hand in

Target date (set by tutor assessor): 10th June

Section Four: Resources

What resources will you need for your research, write up and presentation (eg, libraries, books, journals, equipment, rehearsal space, technology and equipment, venue, physical resources, finance):

Google docs and drive access to process my dissertation on.

Computer or Ipad to access the internet on.

Internet access to access news articles and academic resources (eg Google Scholar). Access to books relating to firearms legislation in the US.

Slightly general

What your areas of research will cover?

The second amendment to the constitution of the USA and other firearms legislation.

The thoughts of American citizens on firearms and the legislation controlling them.

Firearm homicide statistics in relation to how often firearms are used in self defence.

How the law has an impact on homicide statistics.

The legislation in other countries controlling firearms.

international views on firearms and the legislation controlling them.

Comments and agreement from tutor-assessor

Is the learner taking this project as part of the Diploma?

☒ No

If yes, which Diploma are they taking? _____

Comments (optional):

Is project derived from work which has been/will be submitted for another qualification?

☒ No

Which qualification (title and unit)? _____

Comments (optional):

I confirm that the project is not work which has been or will be submitted for another qualification and is appropriate.

Agreed:

(name)

10/12/2018

(date)

Comments and agreement from project proposal checker

Comments (optional):

I confirm t

riate.

Agreed:

(name)

10/12/2018

(date)

Project Activity Log

Learner Name	_____	Learner number	_____
Centre Name	_____	Centre Number	_____
Unit Name	Project _____	Unit number	_____
Teacher Assessor	_____		

Proposed project title "Should firearms legislation be more restrictive in the United States of America?"

This form should be used to record the process of your project and be submitted as evidence with the final piece of work.

You may want to discuss:

- what you have done (eg, from one week to the next)
- if you are working in a group, what discussions you have had
- any changes that you have or will need to make to your plans
- what resources you have found or hope to find
- what problems you are encountering and how you are solving them
- what you are going to do next

Date	Comments
11th January 2018	Today I started my first draft of my project proposal form. I discovered that I need to plan my project in depth in order to save time later. Next time I will develop my project proposal form and proofread it to ensure that I have not made any spelling or grammatical errors.
18th January 2018	Today I have developed my project proposal form and proofread and corrected my mistakes. I have realised that research will take a long time unless I plan my research and make effective use of my time. Next time I will shortlist some research sources and create a layout on Google Docs so that I can effectively note down my research in order to save time when typing up my research review section.

1st February 2018	Today I started my research and noted down bullet points of key information in order to save time next time when I will start to type up my research review section. I found many arguments for both for and against but realized that I need to make sure that all of my arguments have good supporting evidence and that the sources that I am using are credible. I realise that I will have to simplify these arguments in order to be able to discuss them in detail effectively in my research review section.
8th February 2018	Today continued writing up my research review. I discovered that need to keep on top of bibliography in order to save time later in my project. Next time I will update my bibliography and proofread my research section so far. I have discovered that I will need to regularly proofread my work to ensure that I do not have to spend a lot of time doing that at the end of my research review.

22nd February 2018	Today I continued writing up my research review. next time I will proofread my research review so far and will also ensure that my bibliography is up to date. I have realised that I will need to prove why my sources are reliable and write that up in my research review section before completion.
1st March 2018	Today I proofread my research review and I also updated my bibliography. I have discovered that I will need to adapt my writing style to ensure that my essay flows more effectively. Next time I will continue writing my research review and will ensure that I write in a style that makes my essay flow.
2nd March 2018	Today I continued writing my research review section and have started making a balanced argument on my topic. I have discovered that I will need to proofread my activity log to ensure that i have not made any spelling or grammatical mistakes. Next time I will proofread my activity log and will continue writing up my research review.
8th March 2018	Today I proofread my activity log and discovered a lot of mistakes and had to restructure my dissertation to ensure that my essay flows correctly. This took much longer than I expected and so I could not continue in typing up my research review. Next time I will organise my research review to ensure correct structure and good overall flow.

15th March 2018	Today I reorganised my research review to make it flow better as an essay. I also had some time to spare so I continued in writing up my research. Next time I will finish my Research review.
24th April 2018	Today I continued writing my research review and completed it. Next time I will proofread my research review and update my bibliography so that I am ready to move onto the discussion section. I will also evaluate all my sources and write down their credibility and any possible bias in my research review section.
26th April 2018	Today I have completed my bibliography, proofread my research review and evaluated the credibility and reliability of my sources. I have discovered that I will need to use other sources to evaluate the credibility and reliability of my sources. Next time I will complete my source evaluation and I will move onto my discussion section.
10th May 2018	Today I have completed my research review and started my discussion section. I am now halfway through my discussion section and have learned the importance of structuring this section correctly so that I can get my views across effectively. I also edited my Activity Log to ensure correct and neat layout. I have also discovered that I will need to spend a bit of extra time on my HPQ leading up to the deadline to ensure completion of my essay and to ensure that i have time to proofread my essay, activity log and project proposal form before handing in.

Date	Comments
24th May 2018	Today I completed my conclusion section and submitted my first draft. Next time I will proofread my conclusion, complete my introduction section and proofread it. I will then also ensure that I have organised my essay correctly and make sure that it flows well.
10th June 2018	Today I started to do the final readthrough and proof read everything in my dissertation. I realised that I Had made many mistakes along the way and therefore this took a lot longer than I anticipated.
18th June 2018	Today I finished proofreading my dissertation. I have also made sure that I have referenced all of my sources correctly. Next time I will note down my evaluation and begin to write my evaluation of my project.
20th June 2018	Today I wrote my evaluation on the project. I realised how much I enjoyed researching this topic and especially discussing my views on it. Next time I will proofread my evaluation section and also read through my dissertation one last time.
21st June 2018	Today I proofread my evaluation section and proofread my dissertation for the last time. I encountered a few errors that I missed when first proofreading my dissertation and realised how useful it was to have a second readthrough. Next time I will proofread and complete my activity log.
22nd June 2018	Today I proofread and completed my activity log. I discovered a few errors and realised how important it is to proofread my work. Next time I will double check all aspects of my HPQ before submitting it.
23rd June 2018	Today I completed my final checks before handing in and discovered a few errors on my project proposal form. This project has been very useful experience that I can carry forward into my EPQ and other research that I will do in the future.