



GCE A LEVEL MARKING SCHEME

AUTUMN 2021

**A LEVEL
SOCIOLOGY – COMPONENT 2
METHODS OF SOCIOLOGICAL ENQUIRY
A200U20-1**

INTRODUCTION

This marking scheme was used by WJEC for the 2021 examination. It was finalised after detailed discussion at examiners' conferences by all the examiners involved in the assessment. The conference was held shortly after the paper was taken so that reference could be made to the full range of candidates' responses, with photocopied scripts forming the basis of discussion. The aim of the conference was to ensure that the marking scheme was interpreted and applied in the same way by all examiners.

It is hoped that this information will be of assistance to centres but it is recognised at the same time that, without the benefit of participation in the examiners' conference, teachers may have different views on certain matters of detail or interpretation.

WJEC regrets that it cannot enter into any discussion or correspondence about this marking scheme.

GCE A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY
COMPONENT 2 – METHODS OF SOCIOLOGICAL ENQUIRY
AUTUMN 2021 MARK SCHEME

Notes for examiners

The mark scheme for each question is in two parts.

Part 1 is advice on the specific question outlining indicative content which can be used to assess the quality of candidate responses. The content is not prescriptive nor are candidates expected to cover all the material mentioned.

Part 2 is an assessment grid advising bands and associated marks that should be given to responses which demonstrate the qualities needed in AO1, AO2 and, where appropriate, AO3. Where a response is not credit worthy or not attempted it is indicated on the grid as NRSP (no relevant sociological point).

Read the following item and answer all of the questions:

The Crime Survey for England and Wales

The Crime Survey for England and Wales has measured crime since 1981. Used alongside police recorded crime data it is a valuable source of information for the government about the extent and nature of crime in England and Wales.

The survey asks members of the public about their experiences of crime over the last 12 months. In this way the survey records all types of crimes, including those crimes that may not have been reported to the police. It is useful to collect data from people who have experienced crime and also those who have not experienced any crime, to obtain a more valid picture of crime.

In 2019/20 around 50,000 households across England and Wales will have been invited to participate in the survey. In previous years three quarters of households invited to take part agreed to participate. This cooperation from the public means that the survey provides information needed by the government to make important decisions about policies related to crime and justice.

Adapted from: <https://crimesurvey.co.uk/en/HomeReadMore.html>

- 1 1** Using material from the item and sociological knowledge, explain what is meant by the term valid. [5]

AO1 band answers will contain accurate knowledge points, one of which will be an accurate definition of the term. For band 3 AO2, answers should demonstrate sound understanding through examples, one of which should be drawn from the item.

Indicative content

- definition needed: Valid refers to the extent to which the research activity actually measures what it set out to measure.
- truth/detail.
- meanings and motives.
- qualitative research.
- preferred by Interpretivists.
- any other relevant points.
- there should be reference to the item.

Band	AO1 <i>elements 2a & 2b</i>	AO2 <i>element 1b</i>
3	3 marks Answers demonstrate detailed knowledge and understanding of sociological theories/concepts/ evidence relating to the context of the debate/question applied to research methods	2 marks Answers demonstrate accurate and relevant selection of appropriate sociological theories/concepts/ evidence applied to research methods. These are interpreted in the context of the debate/question. Reference will be made to the item to show the ability to select appropriate examples.
2	2 marks Answers demonstrate some knowledge and understanding of sociological theories/concepts/ evidence relating to the context of the debate/question applied to research methods	1 mark Answers demonstrate some ability to select, apply and interpret appropriate sociological theories/concepts/ evidence applied to research methods in the context of the debate/question.
1	1 mark Answers demonstrate basic knowledge and understanding of sociological theories/concepts/ evidence relating to the context of the debate/question applied to research methods	
	0 marks NRSP	0 marks NRSP

1 2 Explain one reason why the researchers decided to survey 50,000 households. [5]

For band 3 AO1 the answer will include one reason which is linked to either key methodological concepts, the characteristics of the method or the focus of the research. For band 3 AO2 there will be a clear explanation of the reason offered and this must be contextualised for full marks.

Indicative content

- large sample so that generalisations can be made.
- able to gather social facts about society (positivist approach).
- compare changes on a macro scale.
- any other relevant points.
- there should be reference to the item.

Band	AO1 <i>elements 2a & 2b</i>	AO2 <i>element 1b</i>
3	2 marks Answers demonstrate detailed knowledge and understanding of sociological theories/ concepts/evidence relating to the context of the debate/ question applied to research methods	3 marks Answers demonstrate accurate and relevant selection of appropriate sociological theories/concepts/ evidence applied to research methods. These are interpreted in the context of the debate/question Reference will be made to the item to show high level ability to select appropriate examples to illustrate the reason offered.
2	1 mark Answers demonstrate some knowledge and understanding of sociological theories/ concepts/evidence relating to the context of the debate/ question applied to research methods	2 marks Answers demonstrate some accurate and relevant selection of appropriate sociological theories/ concepts/evidence applied to research methods, some of which are interpreted in the context of the debate/question Reference will be made to the item to show some ability to select appropriate examples to explain.
1		1 mark Answers demonstrate a basic ability to select, apply and interpret appropriate sociological theories/ concepts/evidence applied to research methods in the context of the debate/question Basic or cursory reference is made to the item.
	0 marks NRSP	0 marks NRSP

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- Using material from the item and elsewhere explain the strengths and weaknesses of using quantitative methods in sociological research. [20]

Answers should address several strengths and several weakness for band 4 AO1 and include at least two studies. For band 4 AO2, the explanation of the strengths and weaknesses will be linked to at least one key concept at least one example should be drawn from the item.

Indicative content

Reference to various quantitative methods for example. questionnaires, structured interviews, secondary data.

There should be a reference to the item.

Strengths:

- reliability
- representativeness
- generalisability
- statistical analysis
- favoured by positivists
- practical issues – can be inexpensive and quick.

Weaknesses:

- lack of validity
- high non-response rate (self-complete questionnaires).
- lack of depth
- interviewer effect (structured interviews)
- time and practicality (large sample).

All relevant examples and explanations will be credited. Direct reference to relevant studies is necessary for answers to gain the top mark band.

Band	AO1 elements 2a & 2b	AO2 element 1b
4	12-14 marks Answers demonstrate detailed knowledge and understanding of sociological theories/concepts/ evidence relating to the context of the debate/question applied to research methods	6 marks Answers demonstrate accurate and relevant selection of appropriate sociological theories/concepts/ evidence applied to research methods. These are applied interpreted in the context of the debate/question Reference will be made to the item to show high level ability to select appropriate examples.
3	8-11 marks Answers demonstrate some knowledge and understanding of sociological theories/concepts/ evidence relating to the context of the debate/question applied to research methods	4-5 marks Answers demonstrate some accurate and relevant selection of appropriate sociological theories/ concepts/ evidence applied to research methods, some of which are interpreted in the context of the debate/question Reference will be made to the item to show some ability to select appropriate examples.
2	4-7 marks Answers demonstrate basic knowledge and understanding of sociological theories/concepts/ evidence relating to the context of the debate/question applied to research methods	2-3 marks Answers demonstrate a basic ability to select, apply and interpret appropriate sociological theories/concepts/ evidence applied to research methods in the context of the debate/question
1	1-3 marks Answers demonstrate limited knowledge and understanding of sociological theories/concepts/ evidence relating to the context of the debate/question applied to research methods	1 mark Answers demonstrate limited ability to select and/or interpret and/or apply sociological theories/concepts/ evidence applied to research methods in the context of the debate/question
	0 marks NRSP	0 marks NRSP

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As an A Level Sociology student you have been asked to design a research project to collect data on attitudes towards smoking use amongst a sample of people in your area. [30]

- (i) Outline each stage of your research design, justifying the reasons for your choices at each stage.
- (ii) Identify some of the problems that may occur and their impact on the quality of data collected.

The research design should be ethical, achievable and appropriate to the theme of the proposed study. Candidates should make their choices, justify their research approach and design in the context of the research problem.

Expect to see the following stages addressed in the proposed design:

- operationalisation of key terms in the brief
- sampling:
 - population
 - sampling technique
 - access
- research method
- ethical issues
- practical considerations.

Expect to see the research design justified and potential problems identified in relation to key methodological concepts and other relevant issues such as:

- ethics
- validity
- reliability
- practical considerations
- generalisability
- representativeness
- operationalisation.

Band	AO1 elements 2a & 2b	AO2 element 1b	AO3 strands 1-3
4	7-8 marks Answers demonstrate detailed knowledge and understanding of sociological theories/ concepts/evidence relating to the context of the debate/ question applied to research methods	9-10 marks Answers demonstrate detailed, accurate and relevant selection of appropriate sociological theories/concepts/ evidence applied to research methods. These are interpreted in the context of the debate/ question	10-12 marks Answers demonstrate detailed, well organised and logical arguments. Logical judgements and conclusions will be offered based on explicit evaluation of the relevant theories/ concepts/evidence as applied to research methods
3	5-6 marks Answers demonstrate some knowledge and understanding of sociological theories/ concepts/evidence relating to the context of the debate/ question applied to research methods	6-8 marks Answers demonstrate some accurate and relevant selection of appropriate sociological theories/concepts/ evidence as applied to research methods, some of which are interpreted in the context of the debate/question	7-9 marks Answers demonstrate some, well organised and logical arguments. Judgements and conclusions offered will show some evaluation of the relevant theories/ concepts/evidence as applied to research methods examined
2	3-4 marks Answers demonstrate basic knowledge and understanding of sociological theories/ concepts/evidence relating to the context of the debate/ question applied to research methods	3-5 marks Answers demonstrate a basic ability to select, apply and interpret appropriate sociological theories/concepts/ evidence as applied to research methods in the context of the debate/ question	4-6 marks Answers demonstrate basic arguments. Judgements and conclusions offered will show basic evaluation of the theories/ concepts/evidence as applied to research methods examined
1	1-2 marks Answers demonstrate limited knowledge and understanding of sociological theories/ concepts/evidence relating to the context of the debate/question applied to research methods	1-2 marks Answers demonstrate limited ability to select and/or interpret and/ or apply sociological theories/concepts/ evidence as applied to research methods in the context of the debate/ question	1-3 marks Answers demonstrate limited argument. Any judgements and conclusions offered will show limited evaluation of any theories/ concepts/evidence as applied to research methods examined
	0 marks NRSP	0 marks NRSP	0 marks NRSP