GCE AS MARKING SCHEME

SUMMER 2017

AS (NEW)
SOCIOLOGY - COMPONENT 2
METHODS OF SOCIOLOGICAL ENQUIRY
B200U20-1

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INTRODUCTION

This marking scheme was used by WJEC for the 2017 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.

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GCE A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY - COMPONENT 2
Methods of Sociological Enquiry

SUMMER 2017 MARK SCHEME

1. (a) Using material from the item and sociological knowledge explain the meaning of the term **quantitative methods**. **[5]**

Answers should include accurate knowledge points for band 3 AO1. Points should be supported with examples and/or evidence. For band 3 AO2 ,a clear explanation of the examples/evidence should be present.

Indicative content:

- A definition of the term quantitative data.
- Research methods that generate quantitative data: questionnaires, structured interviews, surveys, secondary statistical analysis, etc.
- Data that can be expressed in numerical form and presented in the form of graphs, tables, charts, statistics, etc.
- Data that can reveal patterns and trends, reliability.
- Comparisons can be made.
- Favoured by positivists.
- Reference will be made to the item.
- Any other reasonable response.

Band	AO1 Elements 2a & 2b	AO2 Element 1b
3	3 marks Answers demonstrate detailed knowledge and understanding of sociological theories/concepts/evidence relating to the context of the debate/question as applied to research methods.	2 marks Answers demonstrate accurate and relevant selection of appropriate sociological theories/ concepts/evidence/research methods. These are applied and 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 as applied to research methods.	1 mark Answers demonstrate some ability to select, apply and interpret appropriate sociological theories/concepts/evidence/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 as applied to research methods.	
0	0 marks NRSP	0 marks NRSP

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(b) Using material from the item, and sociological knowledge, explain **two** possible reasons why these researchers decided to use unstructured interviews in their research. **[10]**

There should be two reasons for AO1 band 3. These reasons can be theoretical, practical or methodological and must contain technical language. For AO2 band 3 the reasons must be contextualised and explained with reference to methodological issues and contextualised.

Indicative content:

- Rich, detailed data; getting an inside view of a sensitive topic.
- Rapport between interviewers and interviewees, increasing validity.
- Respondents are able to lead interviews.
- Empathy and verstehen.
- Reference to the item should be contextualised.
- Reference may be made to studies using qualitative methods.
- Any other reasonable response.

Band	**AO1** ***elements 2a & 2b***	**AO2** ***element 1b***
3	5-6 marks Answers demonstrate detailed knowledge and understanding of sociological theories/concepts/ evidence relating to the context of the debate/question.	4 marks Answers demonstrate a detailed ability to select, apply and interpret appropriate sociological theories/ concepts/evidence in the context of the debate/question. There will be appropriate use made of the item to demonstrate understanding.
2	3-4 marks Answers demonstrate some knowledge and understanding of sociological theories/concepts/ evidence relating to the context of the debate/question.	2-3 marks Answers demonstrate some ability to select, apply and interpret appropriate sociological theories/ concepts/evidence in the context of the debate/question. Some reference will be made to the item.
1	1-2 marks Answers demonstrate basic knowledge and understanding of sociological theories/ concepts/evidence relating to the context of the debate/question.	1 mark Answers demonstrate a basic ability to select, apply and interpret appropriate sociological theories/ concepts/evidence in the context of the debate/question.
0	0 marks NRSP	0 marks NRSP

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(c) Explain **two** weaknesses of using qualitative methods in this research. **[10]**

There should be two weaknesses identified for AO1 band 3. These weaknesses will contain technical language and will be focused on methodological problems. For AO2 band 3 the weaknesses must be explained with reference to methodological issues and the impact on the research.

Indicative content:

- Micro scale, therefore, cannot be generalised.
- Lacks reliability.
- Hard to present data.
- Time consuming.
- Any other reasonable response.

Band	**AO1** ***elements 2a & 2b***	**AO2** ***element 1b***
3	5-6 marks Answers demonstrate detailed knowledge and understanding of sociological theories/ concepts/evidence relating to the context of the debate/question.	4 marks Answers demonstrate a detailed ability to select, apply and interpret appropriate sociological theories/ concepts/evidence in the context of the debate/question. There will be appropriate use made of the item to demonstrate understanding.
2	3-4 marks Answers demonstrate some knowledge and understanding of sociological theories/ concepts/evidence relating to the context of the debate/question.	2-3 marks Answers demonstrate some ability to select, apply and interpret appropriate sociological theories/ concepts/evidence in the context of the debate/question. Some reference will be made to the item.
1	1-2 marks Answers demonstrate basic knowledge and understanding of sociological theories/ concepts/evidence relating to the context of the debate/question.	1 mark Answers demonstrate a basic ability to select, apply and interpret appropriate sociological theories/ concepts/evidence in the context of the debate/question.
0	0 marks NRSP	0 marks NRSP

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(d) With reference to sociological studies, discuss the importance of ethical issues in sociological research. **[25]**

Answers should demonstrate the ability to make sense of sociological debates, offer sociological examples and explain sociological concepts. Answers need to use key terminology. Credit will be given to effective discussion where there is evidence of detailed and wide ranging knowledge. Where answers demonstrate all abilities to the highest standard, then they will be consistent with Band 4. However answers demonstrating knowledge but fewer skills of interpretation and discussion may achieve band 4 for AO1 but lower bands for AO2 and AO3.

Indicative content
Candidates may refer to some, but not necessarily all, of the following:

- The principles underlying issues of ethics:
  - respect
  - freedom from harm
  - confidentiality
  - anonymity
  - freedom from deception
  - informed consent
  - appropriateness of study
  - capability and expertise of researcher
- Examples of ethical and unethical research taken from a variety of sources.
- Explanations of ethical committees and their range and functions, perhaps with reference to the BSA.
- Understanding of why ethical guidelines are required.
- All relevant examples and explanations will be credited. Direct reference to relevant studies is necessary for answers to gain access to the top mark band. Examples include: Humpreys, Barker, Venkatesh, Parker, Hey and Kulick

Responses other than those listed above may be valid and creditworthy if sociological evidence and analysis is present.

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

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