



GCE A LEVEL MARKING SCHEME

SUMMER 2023

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

INTRODUCTION

This marking scheme was used by WJEC for the 2023 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.

EDUQAS GCE A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY
COMPONENT 2 – METHODS OF SOCIOLOGICAL ENQUIRY
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The Health Survey for England

The Health Survey for England (HSE) monitors trends in the nation's health and care. It is a series of annual surveys, of which the 2019 survey was the twenty ninth. It provides quantitative information about adults aged 16 and over, and children aged 0 to 15, living in private households in England. The survey consists of an interview, followed by a visit from a nurse who takes some measurements and blood and saliva specimens. The research sample consisted of 9612 addresses selected at random in 534 postcode sectors.

Adapted from <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/health-survey-for-england/2019>

Answer **all** questions.

1	1
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 Using material from the item and sociological knowledge, explain what is meant by the term quantitative data. [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 e.g. data in the form of numbers.

- High in reliability.
- Positivists prefer this type of data.
- Easier to analyse.
- Quick and cheap to collect.
- Different methods quantitative data can be collected e.g. through closed questionnaires.
- The item should be used to demonstrate understanding.
- Any other reasonable response.

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

1 2 Give **one** reason why the researchers wanted to select participants at random in this research. [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

- To improve chances of representativeness.
- To give an equal chance of being picked.
- Avoids researcher bias.
- The item should be used to contextualise the reason offered.
- Any other relevant response.

Band	AO1 elements 2a & 2b	AO2 element 1b
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

1 3

Using material from the item and sociological knowledge, explain the strengths and weaknesses of using interviews in sociological research. [20]

Answers should address several strengths and several weaknesses 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:

- Definition of different types of interviews such as structured, unstructured and focus groups.
- There should be a reference to the item.
- There should be reference to appropriate sociological examples.
- There should be reference to methodological issues when discussing the strengths and weaknesses.

Strengths:

- Ability to establish a rapport.
- Ability to clarify questions.
- High in validity (if unstructured).
- High in reliability (if structured).
- Find meanings and motives.
- Research can delve deeper.

Weaknesses:

- Social desirability.
 - Researcher influence.
 - Can be time consuming (if unstructured).
 - Can restrict participants (if structured).
 - Hard to analyse.
 - Lack of generalisability if on a micro scale.
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- Any other relevant response.

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

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

2 1

As an A Level Sociology student you have been asked to design a research project to collect data on gender roles amongst a sample of families in your area. [30]

- Outline each stage of your research design, justifying the reasons for your choices at each stage.
- 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 brief.

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, potential problems identified, and their impact considered in relation to key methodological concepts and other relevant issues such as:

- Ethics
- Validity
- Reliability
- Practical considerations
- Generalisability
- Representativeness
- Operationalisation

Band	A01 elements 2a & 2b	A02 element 1b	A03 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

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.