



GCE A LEVEL MARKING SCHEME

SUMMER 2024

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

About this marking scheme

The purpose of this marking scheme is to provide teachers, learners, and other interested parties, with an understanding of the assessment criteria used to assess this specific assessment.

This marking scheme reflects the criteria by which this assessment was marked in a live series and was finalised following detailed discussion at an examiners' conference. A team of qualified examiners were trained specifically in the application of this marking scheme. The aim of the conference was to ensure that the marking scheme was interpreted and applied in the same way by all examiners. It may not be possible, or appropriate, to capture every variation that a candidate may present in their responses within this marking scheme. However, during the training conference, examiners were guided in using their professional judgement to credit alternative valid responses as instructed by the document, and through reviewing exemplar responses.

Without the benefit of participation in the examiners' conference, teachers, learners and other users, may have different views on certain matters of detail or interpretation. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that this marking scheme is used alongside other guidance, such as published exemplar materials or Guidance for Teaching. This marking scheme is final and will not be changed, unless in the event that a clear error is identified, as it reflects the criteria used to assess candidate responses during the live series.

EDUQAS GCE A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY
COMPONENT 2 - METHODS OF SOCIOLOGICAL ENQUIRY
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Exploring machine player behaviour: A qualitative exploration

Husain and Collins (2013) explored how adult players used a range of gambling machines at a high street amusement arcade and a bingo hall. Their qualitative data collection comprised the following elements:

- observation of the play session and detailed note-taking;
- video recording of the play session; and
- an in-depth interview immediately following game play.

In obtaining ethical approval for this study, a full description of what the research involved was given to participants prior to interview. Participants had the opportunity to ask any questions about the research and were only included in the project if they provided written consent.

Adapted from research published on the National Centre for Social Research website.

- 1.1** Using material from the item and sociological knowledge, explain what is meant by the term observation. [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 observation e.g. A research technique in which an investigator collects information through direct participation in and/or watching a group/individual.

- Explanation of the difference between participant and non-participant observations.
- Explanation of the difference between covert and overt observations.
- Understanding of ethnography and verstehen.
- Issues with validity.
- Interpretivists prefer this method.
- The item should be used to demonstrate understanding.
- 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 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	0 marks NRSP	0 marks NRSP

- 1.2 Give **one** reason why the researchers wanted to collect qualitative data 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

- The researchers collected qualitative data to understand adult gamblers in their natural setting (ethnographic) and how they use a range of gambling machines.
- To gather detail/meanings and motives rather than statistical data about adult gamblers.
- To improve validity by observing gambling behaviour first-hand.
- To gain verstehen.

The item should be used to contextualise the reason offered.

Any other reasonable response.

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

- 1.3 Using material from the item and sociological studies, explain ethical issues in research. [20]

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

Indicative content:

- Definition of ethical issues e.g. moral issues in research.
- There should be a reference to the item.
- There should be reference to appropriate sociological studies.

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

- The principles underlying issues of ethics:
 - Informed consent.
 - Freedom from harm.
 - Confidentiality.
 - Anonymity.
 - Freedom from deception.
 - Danger.
 - Appropriateness of study.
- Examples of ethical and/or 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 may include: Humphreys, Barker, Venkatesh, Parker, Hey and Kulick.

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

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

Q.2 As an A Level Sociology student you have been asked to design a research project to collect data on attitudes towards climate change amongst a sample of young people in your area. [30]

- (i) Outline each stage of your research design explaining 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 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	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

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).