

CONFERENCE VERSION



GCE AS MARKING SCHEME

AUTUMN 2020

**AS
SOCIOLOGY- COMPONENT 2
METHODS OF SOCIOLOGICAL ENQUIRY
B200U20-1**

INTRODUCTION

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

GCE AS SOCIOLOGY
COMPONENT 2 - METHODS OF SOCIOLOGICAL ENQUIRY
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The Census

Every ten years since 1801 the nation has set aside one day for a **social survey** called the census which is a count of all people and households. The latest census was held on Sunday 27 March 2011. In England and Wales, the census is planned and carried out by the Office for National Statistics.

Every effort is made to include everyone, and that is why the census is so important. It is the only survey which provides a detailed picture of the entire population, and is unique because it covers everyone at the same time and asks the same core questions. This makes it easy to compare different parts of the country.

Adapted from: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census/howourcensusworks/aboutcensuses/whatisacensus>

1. (a) Using material from the item and sociological knowledge, explain the meaning of the term **social survey**. [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 social survey e.g. A social survey involves obtaining information in a standardised form from large groups of people.
- The main survey methods are questionnaires and structured interviews.
- The participants making up the sample are typical of the target population.
- Generalisations can be made if the sample is a representative one.
- Favoured by positivists.
- 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 as applied to research methods</p>	<p>2 marks</p> <p>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.</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 as applied to research methods</p>	<p>1 mark</p> <p>Answers demonstrate some ability to select, apply and interpret appropriate sociological theories/concepts/evidence/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 as applied to research methods</p>	
	<p>0 marks</p> <p>NRSP</p>	<p>0 marks</p> <p>NRSP</p>

- (b) Using material from the item and sociological knowledge, explain **two** possible reasons why it is useful to study every household in the census. [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

- Generalisations can be made about society.
- Compare different parts of the country.
- Track long term social change.
- The item should be used to contextualise the reasons offered.
- Any other reasonable response.

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

- (c) Explain **one** strength and **one** weakness of official statistics in this research. [10]

There should be one strength and one weakness identified for AO1 band 3. These 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

Strengths

- Reliability
- Generalisability
- Easy to analyse
- More than a snapshot
- Objective social facts (positivist)

Weaknesses

- Lacks validity
- People may lie/ authenticity
- Lack of depth/detail
- Practical issues

The item should be used to contextualise the reasons offered
Any other reasonable response

Band	AO1 <i>elements 2a & 2b</i>	AO2 <i>element 1b</i>
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 marks NRSP	0 marks NRSP

- (d) With reference to sociological studies, discuss the strength and weaknesses of using qualitative methods 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:

- Clear definition of qualitative methods.
- Examples of qualitative methods such as unstructured interviews, open questionnaires, observations, qualitative longitudinal studies and qualitative secondary data.

Strengths

- Validity
- Verstehen
- Rapport
- Sensitivity
- Meanings and motives
- Depth/detail

Weaknesses

- Reliability
- Representativeness
- Subjectivity
- Difficulty analysing data
- Social desirability

When arguing for or against this should be in the context of key methodological issues such as: validity, reliability, practicality, generalisability

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

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

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 marks NRSP	0 marks NRSP	0 marks NRSP