



GCE AS MARKING SCHEME

SUMMER 2018

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

B200U20-1

INTRODUCTION

This marking scheme was used by WJEC for the 2018 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 AS SOCIOLOGY
COMPONENT 2 - METHODS OF SOCIOLOGICAL ENQUIRY
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Gang membership and teenage offending

Smith and Bradshaw (2005) undertook a **longitudinal study** to explore gang membership and youth offending. The study used a wide range of research methods including self-complete questionnaires with young people conducted annually to identify changes and patterns. This was followed by semi structured interviews, for depth and detail with a subsample of young people. At the same time, a sample of teachers and parents completed questionnaires. The researchers also examined records of social work reports and children's hearings (a type of youth court). Smith and Bradshaw concluded that rates of gang membership were higher in more deprived areas and among one-parent families.

Adapted from A2 Sociology, Moore, S. Aiken, D. and Chapman, S. (2009)

1. (a) Using material from the item and sociological knowledge explain the meaning of the term **longitudinal study**. [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 longitudinal study e.g. a study of a group or individual over a long period of time that revisits at regular intervals.
- Qualitative studies that follow people over time such as 7up.
- Quantitative studies which track populations to discover patterns and trends such as Understanding Society.
- Snapshot in time vs change and development.
- Drop-out rates (sample attrition).
- Issues of reliability and validity.
- 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 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 marks NRSP	0 marks NRSP

1. (b) Using material from the item and sociological knowledge, explain **two** possible reasons why the researchers decided to use more than one method 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

- To compensate the weaknesses of one method.
- To gain a more holistic view.
- To gain different types of data (qualitative and quantitative).
- To get a range of views from parents, teachers and young people.
- The item should be used to contextualise the reasons offered.
- 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 marks NRSP	0 marks NRSP

1. (c) Explain **two** weaknesses of using self-complete questionnaires 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

- Issues with validity as respondents may lie.
- Researcher cannot clarify questions.
- Sensitive topic.
- Just a snapshot.
- Response rates.
- The item should be used to contextualise the reasons offered
- 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 marks NRSP	0 marks NRSP

1. (d) With reference to sociological studies, discuss the practical issues involved when conducting 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:

- Defining the terms of the question, referring to practical issues and how some research is difficult to conduct.
- Piloting.
- Access.
- Sampling.
- Financing and funding.
- Time.
- Careers considerations.
- Choice of methods.
- Personal skills of researcher.
- Triangulation / methodological plurality.
- Issues of literacy for some vulnerable groups and questionnaires.
- Available opportunities.
- Operationalisation of concepts.
- Proximity to respondents.
- Reliability, validity, ethics presenting practical problems for the research design.

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