



GCE AS MARKING SCHEME

SUMMER 2019

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

B200U20-1

INTRODUCTION

This marking scheme was used by WJEC for the 2019 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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A scientific survey of young runaways

In 2005, Rees and Lee carried out a survey of 11 000 young people aged 14 to 16 to find out what proportion had run away from home for at least one night, what happened to them and why they had run away. The study consisted of a **representative sample** of young people aged 14 to 16, drawn from four or five secondary schools in 16 different areas of the country. Rees and Lee used a questionnaire for the study, which students were asked to complete on their own.

The authors did a full search of previous research in the area of young runaways; their literature search identified a previous study first published in 1999. Rees and Lee decided to use similar methodology, as this would allow them to compare how the situation had changed in the previous seven years.

Rees and Lee took **ethical issues** very seriously and so provided each school and student with clear statements to explain what the research was about and how it would be used, also explaining that their identity would be kept anonymous.

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

- (a) Using material from the item and sociological knowledge, explain the meaning of the term **representative sample**. [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 representative sample
- The participants making up the sample are typical of the target population.
- Favoured by positivists.
- Generalisations can be made if the sample is a representative one.
- Often linked to quantitative research.
- 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

- (b) Using material from the item and sociological knowledge, explain **two** possible **ethical issues** 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

- Ensuring anonymity/confidentiality to help improve validity
- Gaining informed consent
- Sensitive topic could cause harm
- Awareness of right to withdraw
- 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

(c) Explain **two** weaknesses of using quantitative data 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

- Lack of detail. Because the responses are fixed, there is less scope for respondents to supply answers which reflect their true feelings on a sensitive topic such as the item.
- Lack of validity as researcher doesn't get meanings and motives just facts.
- Issues with validity as respondents may lie.
- Researcher cannot clarify questions.
- Just a snapshot.
- 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

- (d) With reference to sociological studies, discuss the strengths and weaknesses of using secondary data 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:

- Clear definition of secondary data
- The nature of secondary data (personal records and official data sets)
- Strengths and weaknesses of personal data
- Strengths and weaknesses of official data
- Practical issues such as saving time and money
- Enables researchers to see what research has already been conducted
- Problems with authenticity, credibility or suitability.
- Examples of studies that have used secondary data
- 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