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# **GCE A LEVEL MARKING SCHEME**

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**SUMMER 2022**

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

## **INTRODUCTION**

This marking scheme was used by WJEC for the 2022 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**  
**SUMMER 2022 MARK SCHEME**

Read the following item and answer all the questions.

**English Longitudinal Study of Ageing**

The English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) follows the lives of people in England aged 50 and over. It looks at the quality of life among older people. The study explores the relationships between health and level of activity, social networks and participation, and economic position as people plan for and move into retirement.

The study began in 2002. Data has been collected every two years using face-to-face interviews, questionnaires and the collection of a wide range of health measures by nurses at regular intervals. As a result, both quantitative and qualitative data has been obtained.

*Adapted from: <http://naten.ac.uk/our-research/research/english-longitudinal-study-of-ageing/>*

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 Using material from the item and elsewhere, explain what is meant by the term questionnaire. [5]

AO1 band answers will contain accurate knowledge points, one of which will be an accurate definition of the term. For band 3 AO2, answers should demonstrate sound understanding through examples, one of which should be drawn from the item.

**Indicative content:**

- A definition of the term questionnaire.
- It is an example of a social survey.
- It can be open or closed.
- It can be administered by post, phone, email.
- Cheap, quick, reliable and representative if closed.
- Detailed and valid if open.

The item should be used to demonstrate understanding.

<b>Band</b>	<b>AO1 elements 2a &amp; 2b</b>	<b>AO2 element 1b</b>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>3 marks</b></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><b>2 marks</b></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>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>2 marks</b></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><b>1 mark</b></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>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>1 mark</b></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>	
<b>0</b>	<p><b>0 marks</b></p> <p>NRSP</p>	<p><b>0 marks</b></p> <p>NRSP</p>

**1 2** Give **one** reason why the researchers wanted to obtain both quantitative and qualitative data.

[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 gain an holistic view of the group being studied.
- To obtain both valid and reliable data.
- To gain both subjective and objective data.
- The item should be used to contextualise the reason offered.

<b>Band</b>	<b>AO1 elements 2a &amp; 2b</b>	<b>AO2 element 1b</b>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>2 marks</b></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><b>3 marks</b></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 high level ability to select appropriate examples to illustrate the reason offered.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>1 mark</b></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><b>2 marks</b></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 to explain.</p>
<b>1</b>		<p><b>1 mark</b></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> <p>Basic or cursory reference is made to the item.</p>
	<p><b>0 marks</b></p> <p>NRSP</p>	<p><b>0 marks</b></p> <p>NRSP</p>

**1 3**

Using material from the item and elsewhere explain the strengths and weaknesses of longitudinal studies. [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 longitudinal study – a study that follows the same subjects repeatedly over a period of time. They can be quantitative or qualitative.
- There should be a reference to the item.
- There should be reference to appropriate sociological examples.

**Strengths:**

- More than a snapshot
- Can track changes over time
- If qualitative they are high in depth and validity
- If quantitative they are reliable, macro and easy to represent in a graph

**Weaknesses:**

- Time consuming
- Expensive
- Sample attrition

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

<b>Band</b>	<b>AO1 elements 2a &amp; 2b</b>	<b>AO2 element 1b</b>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>12-14 marks</b></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><b>6 marks</b></p> <p>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</p> <p>Reference will be made to the item to show high level ability to select appropriate examples.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>8-11 marks</b></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><b>4-5 marks</b></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>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>4-7 marks</b></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><b>2-3 marks</b></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>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>1-3 marks</b></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><b>1 mark</b></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><b>0 marks</b></p> <p>NRSP</p>	<p><b>0 marks</b></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 attitudes towards healthy eating 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 in relation to key methodological concepts and other relevant issues such as:

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



<b>Band</b>	<b>A01 elements 2a &amp; 2b</b>	<b>A02 element 1b</b>	<b>A03 strands 1-3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>7-8 marks</b> Answers demonstrate detailed knowledge and understanding of sociological theories/ concepts/evidence relating to the context of the debate/question applied to research methods	<b>9-10 marks</b> 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	<b>10-12 marks</b> 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
<b>3</b>	<b>5-6 marks</b> Answers demonstrate some knowledge and understanding of sociological theories/ concepts/evidence relating to the context of the debate/question applied to research methods	<b>6-8 marks</b> 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	<b>7-9 marks</b> 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
<b>2</b>	<b>3-4 marks</b> Answers demonstrate basic knowledge and understanding of sociological theories/ concepts/evidence relating to the context of the debate/question applied to research methods	<b>3-5 marks</b> 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	<b>4-6 marks</b> Answers demonstrate basic arguments. Judgements and conclusions offered will show basic evaluation of the theories/ concepts/evidence as applied to research methods examined
<b>1</b>	<b>1-2 marks</b> Answers demonstrate limited knowledge and understanding of sociological theories/ concepts/evidence relating to the context of the debate/question applied to research methods	<b>1-2 marks</b> 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	<b>1-3 marks</b> Answers demonstrate limited argument. Any judgements and conclusions offered will show limited evaluation of any theories/ concepts/evidence as applied to research methods examined
	<b>0 marks</b> NRSP	<b>0 marks</b> NRSP	<b>0 marks</b> 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 sociology).