



GCE AS MARKING SCHEME

SUMMER 2016

**SOCIOLOGY - COMPONENT 2
B200U20-1**

INTRODUCTION

This marking scheme was used by WJEC for the 2016 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.

GCE SOCIOLOGY
SUMMER 2016 MARK SCHEME

The London riots 2011

The researchers wanted to understand the motivations, attitudes and experiences of people who took part in the riots of August 2011. **Unstructured interviews** were conducted with 270 people. They were held in people's homes, fast food restaurants, cafes and youth clubs. The researchers had local contacts and knowledge of the communities. They used a form of snowball sampling to identify potential interviewees.

A third of the sample was aged between 10 and 17 years old and almost half were between 18 and 25. Four-fifths were male and one-fifth female. The researchers thought the ratio of males to females was probably not a true reflection of those who took part in the riots. In addition to the interviews 2.5 million riot related tweets were analysed and a quantitative analysis of 1000 court records was carried out.

*Adapted from The Guardian/The London School of Economics and Political Science.
Reading the Riots: Investigating England's Summer of Disorder 2011*

1. (a) Using material from the item and sociological knowledge, explain the meaning of the term **unstructured interviews**. (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 unstructured interviews.
- Possible to gain a relationship/rapport with the interviewees.
- Used where in-depth information is sought.
- Validity is high.
- Interviewer can ask interviewee for clarification.
- Interviewer can probe for more detailed information.
- Used where groups may feel apprehensive about speaking to researchers.
- Often used in ethnographic research.
- Reference will be made to the item.

Band	AO1 elements 2a & 2b	AO2 element 1b
3	3 marks Answers demonstrate detailed knowledge and understanding of sociological concepts and/or evidence relating to the debate/question as applied to research methods	2 marks Answers demonstrate accurate and relevant sociological 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 sociological methods in the context of the debate/question.
2	2 marks Answers demonstrate some knowledge and understanding of sociological/concepts and/or 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 concepts/evidence/research methods in the context of the debate/question.
1	1 mark Answers demonstrate basic knowledge and understanding of sociological/concepts and/or evidence relating to the context of the debate/questions as applied to research methods	
	0 marks NRSP	0 marks NRSP

- (b) Using material from the item and sociological knowledge, explain **two** problems that might have arisen when interviewing young people. (10)

There should be two possible problems for AO1 band 3. These problems can be theoretical, practical or methodological and must contain technical language.

For AO2 band 3 the problems must be contextualised and explained with reference to methodological issues.

Indicative content

- Ethical issues regarding permission to interview young people.
- Young peoples' rights to withdraw.
- Safety of young people.
- Access to young people.
- Gatekeepers.
- The willingness of young people to be interviewed.
- Young people may give answers they think will please the researcher.
- Young people may exaggerate answers or be economical with the truth if they think there is criminality involved.
- Reference will be made to the item.
- Reference may be made to studies such as MacDonald and Marsh (2005), Lincoln (2004), Sharpe (1976, 1994), Frosh (2002), Blackman (1995, 1997).

These are just examples, research evidence is not essential in this part of the question.

Band	AO1 elements 2a & 2b	AO2 element 1b
3	5-6 marks Answers demonstrate detailed knowledge and understanding of sociological concepts and/or evidence relating to the context of the debate/question.	4 marks Answers demonstrate a detailed ability to select, apply and interpret appropriate sociological concepts and/or 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 concepts and/or evidence relating to the context of the debate/question.	2-3 marks Answers demonstrate some ability to select, apply and interpret appropriate sociological concepts and/or 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 concepts and/or evidence relating to the context of the debate/question.	1 mark Answers demonstrate a basic ability to select, apply and interpret appropriate sociological concepts and/or evidence in the context of the debate/question.
	0 marks NRSP	0 marks NRSP

- (c) With reference to the item and sociological knowledge identify **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of using snowball sampling. (10)

There should be one advantage and one disadvantage of using snowball sampling in this research identified for A01 band 2. The advantage and disadvantage will contain technical language and will be focused on methodological problems. For A02 band 3 the advantages and disadvantage must be explained with reference to methodological issues and the impact on the research

Indicative content

Advantages

- To gain access to groups that may otherwise be problematic.
- To gain access where there is no sampling frame.
- Cheap.
- Simple to do – requires no elaborate planning..

Disadvantages

- Sample may not be representative of the target population.
 - May be unsafe to make generalisations about the target population.
 - Use of personal contacts may lead to skewed data.
 - The sample will not be a random one.
 - The sample is self-selecting.
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- Reference may be made to sociological studies such as that by Taylor (1984), Aldridge and Levine (2001), Bhopal (range of research since 2000), Blackman (1995, 1997), Williamson (2004).
 - Reference must be made to the Item.

Band	AO1 elements 2a & 2b	AO2 element 1b
3	5-6 marks Answers demonstrate detailed knowledge and understanding of sociological concepts and/or evidence relating to the context of the debate/question.	4 marks Answers demonstrate a detailed ability to select, apply and interpret appropriate sociological concepts and/or 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 of sociological concepts and/or evidence relating to the context of the debate/question.	2-3 marks Answers demonstrate some ability to select, apply and interpret appropriate sociological 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 concepts/evidence relating to the context of the debate /question.	1 marks Answers demonstrate a basic ability to select, apply and interpret appropriate sociological 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 more than one method 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 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 A01 but lower bands for A02 and A03.

Indicative content

- Definition and discussion of the use of more than one method in sociological research.
- Triangulation.
- Methodological pluralism.
- There will be a balanced argument.
- There will be accurate use of sociological concepts such as validity, reliability, representativeness, generalisability and ethics.
- Answers may include reference to sociological studies using one method or more than one method such as Barker (1984), MacDonald and Marsh (2005), McDowell (2004), Knight (2014).

Strengths

- Validity.
- Can cross check data from one method to another.
- Can compare quantitative data and qualitative data.
- Can clarify findings from one method by using another.
- Can use one method to generate ideas for another one.
- Will make it safer to generalise findings to the target population.

Weaknesses

- Expensive.
- Time consuming.
- The research design may be very complicated.
- Data from the different methods may be conflicting.
- Analysis can be quite complex.
- Not favoured by post-modernists.

Answers may include reference to sociological studies using one method or more than one method such as Barker (1984), MacDonald and Marsh (2005), Dench (2006), Humphreys (1970), McDowell (2004), Knight (2014).

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 debate/question.	1-2 marks Answers demonstrate limited argument. Any judgement and conclusions offered will show limited evaluation of any theories/concepts/evidence/research methods examined.
	0 marks NRSP	0 marks NRSP	0 marks NRSP