



SOC6 Sociological research methods

Personal learning checklist | 1 of 3

AQA GCSE Sociology 8192 | Paper 1 & 2 · Specification 3.7

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Tick one box for each statement. Red: need help. Amber: partly confident.
Green: can do independently.

Support your confidence with precise concepts, evidence and a reasoned argument. Quick checks do not assess a complete evaluation or research design.

I can	Red	Amber	Green
Research design and evidence			
Formulate a focused aim, hypothesis and observable indicators.	☐	☐	☐
Explain how pilots improve design without guaranteeing final validity.	☐	☐	☐
Distinguish primary, secondary, qualitative and quantitative evidence.	☐	☐	☐
Evaluate reliability, validity, representativeness and causal claims separately.	☐	☐	☐
Distinguish correlation from causation with alternative explanations.	☐	☐	☐
Sampling and access			
Define a population and assess coverage of a sampling frame.	☐	☐	☐
Compare random, systematic and stratified sampling with suitable frames.	☐	☐	☐
Distinguish quota from stratified random selection and evaluate access biases.	☐	☐	☐
Evaluate snowball, opportunity and volunteer recruitment in context.	☐	☐	☐
Assess sample size, non-response, representativeness and gatekeeper effects.	☐	☐	☐
Questionnaires and surveys			
Compare closed and open questions for the particular research aim.	☐	☐	☐
Design neutral questions avoiding ambiguous or combined judgements.	☐	☐	☐
Evaluate response bias, attitudes and socially desirable answers.	☐	☐	☐

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Interviews and group discussion			
Compare structured, unstructured and semi-structured interviews.	☐	☐	☐
Explain interviewer effects and power relationships in a specific enquiry.	☐	☐	☐
Assess focus groups' interaction, disclosure and confidentiality limits.	☐	☐	☐
Observation and case studies			
Distinguish participation and awareness dimensions of observation.	☐	☐	☐
Evaluate overt and covert research with practical and ethical constraints.	☐	☐	☐
Explain researcher influence, reflexivity and risk of over-identification.	☐	☐	☐
Assess case studies and ethnography without claiming population prevalence.	☐	☐	☐
Compare longitudinal and cross-sectional designs, including attrition.	☐	☐	☐
Secondary sources and mixed methods			
Evaluate official and non-official statistics using definitions and collection.	☐	☐	☐
Evaluate documents and design transparent content analysis.	☐	☐	☐
Assess mixed methods and triangulation, including shared limitations.	☐	☐	☐

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I can	Red	Amber	Green
Ethics and safeguarding			
Plan informed consent, genuine withdrawal and appropriate permissions.	☐	☐	☐
Distinguish confidentiality and anonymity and communicate their limits.	☐	☐	☐
Identify and address harm, sensitive disclosure, deception and institutional pressure.	☐	☐	☐
Data interpretation and application			
Interpret graphs, tables and percentages using scope, units and denominators.	☐	☐	☐
Design and evaluate a feasible, ethical study in each of the four substantive topics.	☐	☐	☐
Construct conclusions separating evidence, inference, causation and generalisation.	☐	☐	☐

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