

A level Sociology: Specimen Questions

Paper 1: Theory & Methods

10 MARKS

1. Outline and explain two arguments against the view that sociology is a science. (SP1)
2. Outline and explain two reasons why values may enter sociological research. (SP2)
3. Outline and explain two practical disadvantages of using documents in sociological research. (17)
4. Outline and explain two problems of using the functionalist perspective to study today's society. (18)
5. Outline and explain two disadvantages of using personal documents in sociological research. (19)
6. Outline and explain two disadvantages of using written questionnaires to study society.
7. Outline and explain two arguments to support the view that sociology is a science
8. Outline and explain two factors which will influence a researchers choice of research method.
9. Outline and explain two advantages of using unstructured interviews to study society.
10. Outline and explain two problems of using covert participant observation to research society.

20 MARKS

1. Applying material from Item B and your knowledge, evaluate the strengths and limitations of using written questionnaires for investigating ethnic differences in education.
2. Applying material from Item B and your knowledge of research methods, evaluate the strengths and limitations of using self-completion questionnaires to investigate unauthorised absences from school.
3. Applying material from Item B and your knowledge of research methods, evaluate the strengths and limitations of unstructured interviews to investigate boys' underachievement.
4. Applying material from Item B and your knowledge of research methods, evaluate the strengths and limitations of official statistics to investigate the study of gender and subject choice.

5. Applying material from Item B and your knowledge of research methods, evaluate the strengths and limitations of participant observation to investigate teachers attitudes towards minority ethnic group pupils.
6. Applying material from Item B and your knowledge of research methods, evaluate the strengths and limitations of official statistics to investigate truancy from school.
7. Applying material from Item B and your knowledge of research methods, evaluate the strengths and limitations of participant observation to investigate truancy from school.
8. Applying material from Item B and your knowledge of research methods, evaluate the strengths and limitations of group interviews to investigate anti school subcultures.
9. Applying material from Item B and your knowledge of research methods, evaluate the strengths and limitations of non-participant observation to investigate anti school subcultures:
10. Applying material from Item B and your knowledge of research methods, evaluate the strengths and limitations of field experiments to investigate the effects of streaming.
11. Applying material from Item B and your knowledge of research methods, evaluate the strengths and limitations of postal questionnaires to investigate social class differences in university entrance.