

AS SOCIOLOGY UNIT 2535 THE RESEARCH REPORT

MARK SCHEME

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVE 1: KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING (including Presentation and Communication) 24 marks

Level 4 19-24	<p>The Report shows knowledge and understanding of the methodology used in the selected piece of research. At the top of this level candidates should express a clear and concise understanding of how issues of reliability, validity, representativeness and/or generalisability impact upon the research design and findings. This could be accompanied with illustrations detailing aspects of methodology, e.g. sampling technique, sample size, the method/s of data collection and the impact of ethical issues. At the bottom of this level only two/three of the concepts may be dealt with explicitly. All sections of the Report should be focused on the task and presented concisely and coherently. Reports which exceed the word limit, which are in need of further editing to improve coherence, should be placed at the bottom of this level. There will be few, if any, errors of grammar, punctuation and spelling.</p>
Level 3 13-18	<p>The Report displays some knowledge and understanding of the methodology used in the selected piece of research. At the top of this level, at least two of the issues of reliability, validity, representativeness and/or generalisability will be addressed explicitly and there should be implicit reference to the other concepts. This could be accompanied with illustrations detailing aspects of methodology, e.g. sampling technique, sample size, the method/s of data collection and the impact of ethical issues. At the bottom of this level, the Report will display explicit understanding of at least one concept and how it impacts upon the research design and findings, although it may focus on only one or two aspects of the methodology. Most sections will address the task but the Report may be less concise than in the top mark level. Reports which exceed the word limit, which are in need of further editing to improve coherence, should be placed at the bottom of this level. There may be occasional errors of grammar, punctuation and spelling.</p>
Level 2 7-12	<p>The Report displays basic knowledge and understanding of the methodology used in the selected piece of research. Issues of reliability, validity, representativeness and/or generalisability may be identified but at this level candidates may display a basic understanding of how such issues relate to methodology. Reports at the bottom of this level may display signs of over-reliance on source materials. Some sections within the Report may lack focus on the task. Reports which exceed the word limit, which are in need of further editing to improve coherence, should be placed at the bottom of this level. There may be some errors of grammar, punctuation and spelling.</p>
Level 1 1-6	<p>The Report displays a limited knowledge and understanding of some aspects of the methodology used in the selected piece of research. The Report may rely heavily upon text summaries. Knowledge and understanding of the issues of reliability, validity, representativeness and/or generalisability will be undeveloped. There will be a lack of focus across more than one section of the Report. Errors of grammar, punctuation and spelling may be noticeable and intrusive.</p>
0	<p>No relevant sociological points.</p>

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVE 2(a): INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS**12 marks**

Level 4 10-12	The Report shows the ability to select, analyse and illustrate the key findings of the research and will clearly explain and analyse how issues of reliability, validity, representativeness and/or generalisability impact upon the selection of research methods and quality of data collected. The Report should contain positive reasons why the researchers chose their specific research design, including where appropriate the impact of ethical issues.
Level 3 7-9	The Report shows the ability to select, analyse and illustrate some of the key findings of the research and will offer some explanation and analysis of how issues of reliability, validity, representativeness and/or generalisability may impact upon the research design and quality of data collected. The Report should contain some positive reasons why the researcher/s chose their specific research design.
Level 2 4-6	The Report displays the basic ability to select, analyse and illustrate some of the findings of the research and will offer a basic explanation and analysis of how issues of reliability, validity, representativeness and/or generalisability may impact upon the research design and/or quality of data collected. There will be a few reasons why the researcher/s chose a specific research design. Reports at this level will probably concentrate on describing practical issues rather than interpreting and analysing why researcher/s chose their specific research design.
Level 1 1-3	The Report displays limited ability to select any relevant findings and will offer a limited justification for the choice by the researcher/s of their research design. There will be limited reference to issues of reliability, validity, representativeness and/or generalisability. Candidates should offer at least one reason why particular sampling or data collection techniques were adopted.
0	No relevant sociological points.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVE 2(b): EVALUATION 9 marks

Level 4 7-9	The Report explicitly develops an evaluation of the quality of the selected research design and findings. Answers in this level should evaluate the effectiveness of the research in achieving its aims. Some answers will focus on a smaller range of issues in depth whilst others may cover a more comprehensive range. In either case there must be evidence of the candidate expressing a judgement on the effectiveness of the research design in relation to issues of reliability, validity, representativeness and/or generalisability. Ethical issues should also be identified, if appropriate, in terms of how they may impact upon the quality of the research.
Level 3 5-6	The Report identifies and develops some points of evaluation in relation to reliability, validity, representativeness and/or generalisability. Some comment may be included in relation to how effective the research methods are in achieving the aims. At the bottom of this level there may be a tendency towards general evaluative commentary, rather than evaluation of issues related specifically to the selected piece of sociological research. Reports in this level should express a judgement on how effective the research proved to be in relation to at least two of the issues of reliability, validity, representativeness and/or generalisability. Ethical issues, if appropriate, may be commented upon.
Level 2 3-4	The Report offers a basic commentary on the research design and/or quality of the data collected. Commentary may be related to only one issue of reliability, validity, representativeness and/or generalisability. At this level the evaluation is likely to be a list of potential strengths and weaknesses of the research design, which are not developed.
Level 1 1-2	The Report makes limited comments on one or two points, which relate to the research design or the quality of the data collected by researchers. At this level the commentary will probably be related to general problems of conducting research.
0	No relevant sociological points.