

SOCIOLOGY INVESTIGATION



PURPOSE OF THIS INVESTIGATION: Is to become familiar with the steps in the research process, sampling and research methods. All of which will be assessed as part of Unit 1 Studying Human Society. The selection of possible questions on this topic is in the front of your Unit 1 booklet.

DUE WEEK BEFORE THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

THE RESEARCH PROCESS/STRATEGY

Theory stage:

You will need to choose a theory concerning a topic area that we are or will be studying. For example, are you approaching your investigation from a functionalist perspective? You will need to detail this in your introduction.

Hypothesis:

This is a particular idea that a sociologist wants to explore, set out as a statement or a series of statements or predictions which s/he then tests by carrying out research. It must be testable, in other words you must be able to prove or disprove your hypothesis.

For example: Men are more likely than women to commit violent crimes

Operationalisation:

In the exam you must be able to describe how to put research into practice. You will need to provide evidence of this in your investigation. Operationalisation includes 4 sub-stages:

- Defining concepts – here you will decide on chapter headings relevant to your hypothesis. You will need to have minimum two chapters. You will also have an introduction, which will explain why and how you are investigating this particular area.
- Choosing a sample – here you will decide what group of people you are going to require information from for your primary evidence.
- Choosing a method – you will need to use at least two methods, one qualitative and one quantitative. You need to be able to justify the use of these methods.
- Deciding on specific measurements.

Fieldwork:

Fieldwork involves the following elements below:

- **Conducting research**
 - You will need to gather both primary and secondary evidence.

PRIMARY	SECONDARY
Survey	Internet websites
Interview	Books from library
Official Statistics	Articles
Postal (Email) Questionnaires	Newspapers

- **Research methods**
 - Before you begin to gather information you must think about what would be the best method to suit your investigation. For example, if you are researching something like – ‘Men are more likely to commit violent crimes than women’ – then an interview won’t be the best method, because it would be very difficult to find someone who would admit to committing a violent act, unless you have access to prison inmates. Remember in your conclusion you will have to evaluate your chosen methods – what worked well and what didn’t. Use the research methods help sheet on the School website for ideas.

- The researcher must use a relevant sample for the investigation. See the research methods help sheet on the school website.

Processing of Results:

- Once research is completed researchers analyse findings. What does the evidence you have gathered tell you? So you must present your primary research findings in an appropriate way, for example a graph. You must draw conclusions on your findings and relate them back to your original hypothesis. Does this evidence agree or disagree with your original hypothesis? You must also present findings from your secondary research in an appropriate way. You must draw conclusions on your findings and relate them back to your original hypothesis. Does this evidence agree or disagree with your original hypothesis?

Presentation of Results:

You will be expected to present your results in a report format.

SUCCESS CRITERIA	CHECK
1. Have you presented you findings in a report format? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Each section should have an appropriate heading. It must be typed, spell checked and proof read, with page numbers and it must be justified. b. Cover page – Title, Hypothesis, Full Name, Registration Class, Date Submitted. c. Introduction – Description of the theoretical approach you are going to take towards your research and why. Description of hypothesis and why you are investigating this. Explanation of what research methods you will be using and why. d. Main body – It must include chapter headings which are appropriate to hypothesis. Description and analysis of evidence must relate to chapter heading and link to overall hypothesis. Mini conclusions should be drawn relating to the chapter headings. Maximum chapters required is two. e. Conclusion – Should obviously address whether the hypothesis has been proven or disproven. It must also evaluate the success of your chosen research methods. 	
2. Did you choose the best research method? If so explain why it was useful. If not what other method would you choose next time and why? (In Conclusion)	
3. Did you get results that enabled you to draw a conclusion? If you didn't is there anything you could have done to change this? (In Conclusion)	
4. Did you find any of the secondary sources you used were biased?	
5. Did you find any of the information you gathered or used was exaggerated?	
6. What conclusions did you draw overall and in relation to the chapter headings?	