



AQA GCSE Sociology – Personal learning checklist *Papers 1&2 - Research Methods*



Students will be expected to apply their knowledge and understanding of sociological research methods and data to their study of: Families, Education, Crime & Deviance and Social Stratification

Research Methods	I've studied this and I'm confident	I've studied this, but not confident	I've not studied this at all
<i>Topic 1: The research process</i>			
1. Research design: aims, hypothesis and planning a research project			
2. The scientific method: what it is, peer review, pilot studies, reliability and validity			
3. Practical problems: time, money, access, resources			
4. Ethical problems: informed consent, anonymity & confidentiality, data protection, protection from harm			
5. Theoretical links between a sociologist's approach to research and their theoretical perspective			
<i>Topic 2: Sources of data</i>			
1. Quantitative data: sources and types of quantitative data			
2. Qualitative data: sources and types of qualitative data			
3. Primary data: sources and types of primary data, reliability, validity, representativity			
4. Secondary data: sources and types of secondary data, reliability, validity, representativity			
5. Official statistics: sources and types (Census, ONS data etc), looking for patterns & trends, identifying strengths & weaknesses			
<i>Topic 3: Research methods</i>			
1. Sampling: sampling methods (random, stratified, volunteer, snowball, systematic etc), strengths & weaknesses			
2. Surveys: what they are, types (postal, online & telephone, opinion polls), advantages & disadvantages			
3. Questionnaires: what they are, suitability and design, advantages & disadvantages			
4. Interviews: what they are, types (structured, semi-structured, unstructured and focus group), interviewer bias, advantages & disadvantages			
5. Observational methods: what they are, types (participant & non-participant, covert & non-covert), advantages & disadvantages			
6. Case studies: what they are, suitability, advantages & disadvantages			
7. Longitudinal studies: what they are, suitability, advantages & disadvantages			
8. Ethnography: what it is, suitability, advantages & disadvantages			
9. Experiments: what they are, types (laboratory/field) famous examples, ethical issues, advantages & disadvantages			