

3.7 Sociological research methods

In the context of the various social structures, social processes and social issues detailed in the specification, students should be able to:

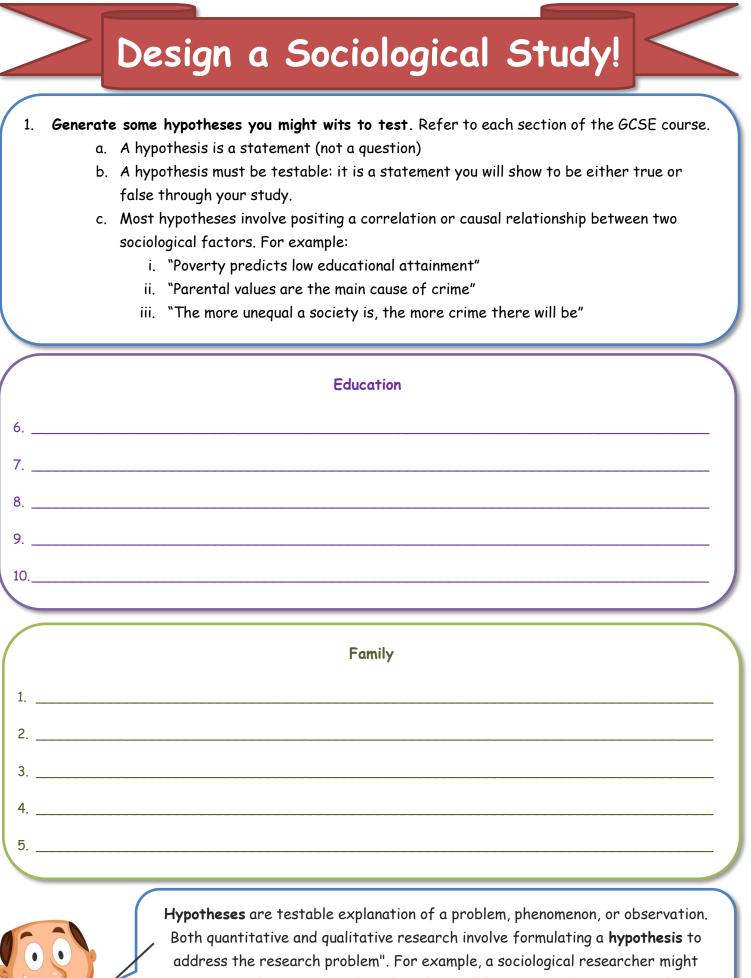
- identify, describe and explain various methods and methodological issues
- identify and explain the advantages and disadvantages, strengths and weaknesses of a particular method for a specific area of research
- demonstrate an understanding of the process of research design for a specific area of research, including practical difficulties and ethical issues
- demonstrate an understanding of the relevance and usefulness of various primary and secondary sources for a specific area of research
- demonstrate the ability to interpret data presented in a variety of forms.

Content	Additional information
Research design	Describe and explain the processes involved in research design: the establishment of appropriate aims and relevant hypotheses, the use of pilot studies, the selection of appropriate sampling methods and the analysis of data.
Qualitative and quantitative methods	 Describe and explain qualitative and quantitative methods (questionnaires, interviews, observations) and assess the value, application, and strengths and weaknesses of different methods. Assess the usefulness of the mixed methods approach.
Different types of data	Assess the usefulness of different types of data, qualitative and quantitative data, and official and non- official statistics.
Primary and secondary sources	Describe and explain primary and secondary sources of data.
Interpretation of data	Demonstrate the ability to interpret graphs, diagrams, charts and tables to discern patterns and trends in statistical data.
Practical issues	Practical issues including time, cost and access.
Ethical issues	Ethical issues are consent, confidentiality and harm to participants and how the issues can be addressed.

The information above is from your exam specification.

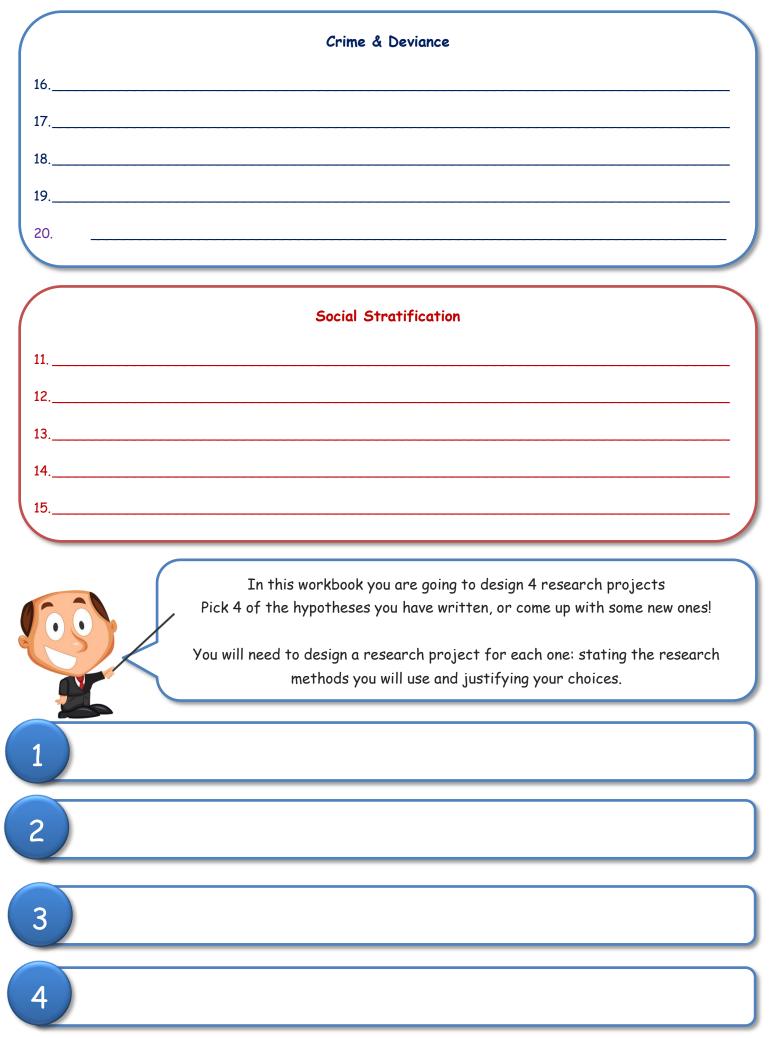
It tells you exactly what you need to know about Sociological Research Methods before the exam!

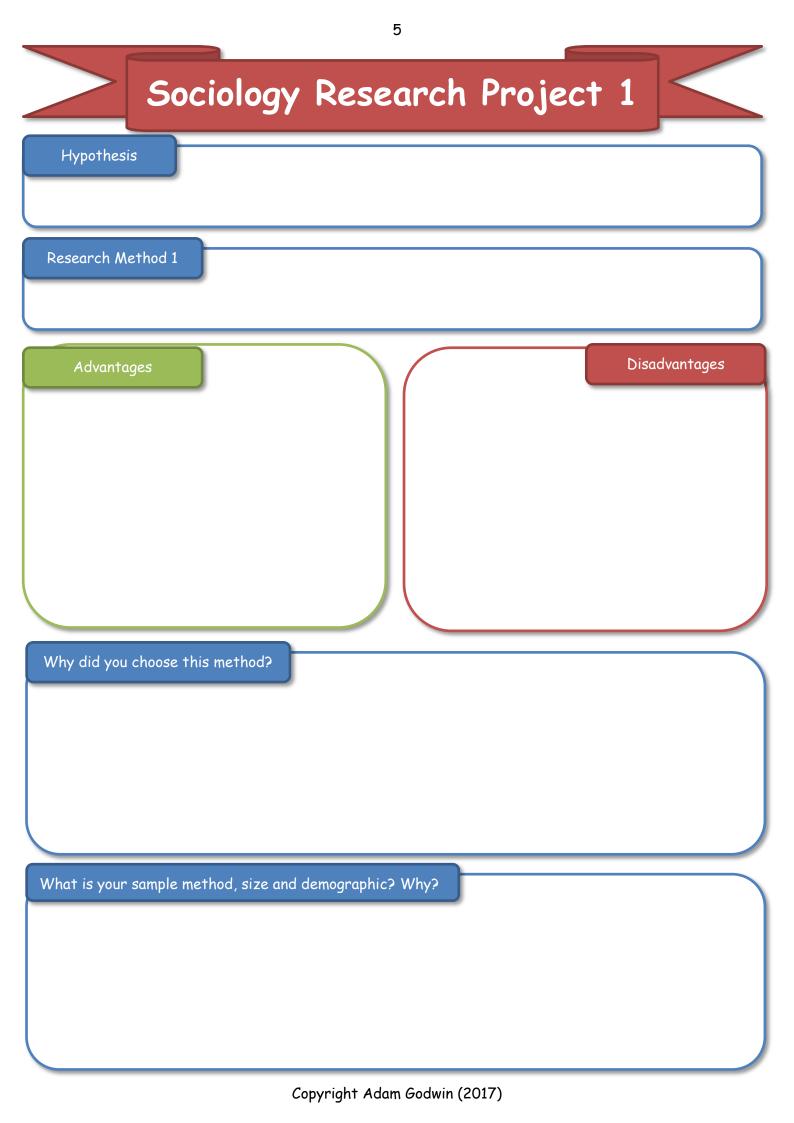




make a prediction about what they think will happen or is happening in their experiment or suggest a link between two sociological factors.

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Research Method 2		
Advantages		Disadvantages
Why did you choose this method?		
What is your sample method, size a	nd demographic? Why?	
Ethical Concerns		Practical Concerns

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What secondary sources will you use to bolster your research? Be specific...

What do you predict your research findings will be? Why?

Sociology Research Projec	t 2	\leq
Hypothesis		
Research Method 1		
Advantages	Disc	advantages
Why did you choose this method?		
What is your sample method, size and demographic? Why?		

Research Method 2		
Advantages		Disadvantages
Why did you shoose this method?		
Why did you choose this method?		
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	nd demographic? Why?	Practical Concerns



Draw a diagram, picture, or flow-diagram or your research in action! Show each stage of research and how it tests the hypothesis...

What secondary sources will you use to bolster your research? Be specific...

What do you predict your research findings will be? Why?

Sociology Research Project	t 3	\leq
Hypothesis		
Research Method 1		
Advantages	Disad	vantages
Why did you choose this method?		
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Research Method 2		
Advantages		Disadvantages
Why did you choose this method?		
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Sociology Research Project	4
Hypothesis	
Research Method 1	
Advantages	Disadvantages
Why did you choose this method?	
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Research Method 2		
Advantages		Disadvantages
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What secondary sources will you use to bolster your research? Be specific...

What do you predict your research findings will be? Why?

Topic/Ability	Shade RED/AMBER/ GREEN	Confidence Rating 1-10
Research design		
Describe and explain the processes involved in research design: the establishment of appropriate aims and relevant hypotheses, the use of pilot studies, the selection of appropriate sampling methods and the analysis of data.		
Qualitative and quantitative methods		
Describe and explain qualitative and quantitative methods (questionnaires, interviews, observations) and assess the value, application, and strengths and weaknesses of different methods.		
Assess the usefulness of the mixed methods approach		
Different types of data		
Assess the usefulness of different types of data, qualitative and quantitative data, and official and nonofficial statistics.		
Primary and secondary sources		
Describe and explain primary and secondary sources of data		
Interpretation of data		
Demonstrate the ability to interpret graphs, diagrams, charts and tables to discern patterns and trends in statistical data		
Practical issues including time, cost and access		
Ethical issues such as consent, confidentiality and harm to participants and how the issues can be addressed		



Congratulations on reaching the end!

To check progress, rate your understanding and confidence for each section of the 'Research Methods' aspect of the course!

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