4.9 Measuring Religiosity: Defining and Operationalising Religious Belief: 10-minute Pack

AQA 7192 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. For the longer, levels-marked question, write full sentences and give a brief conclusion. Show application to the Items where asked. Use sociological terms where appropriate.

1 Explain one methodological problem that arises when researchers try to compare religiosity between countries using official statistics such as national church membership lists or census religion questions.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Describe two ways researchers can try to operationalise 'believing' in surveys to capture private religious conviction.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

3 State one ethical issue researchers must consider when asking detailed questions about private religious beliefs in surveys.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.9 Measuring Religiosity: Defining and Operationalising Religious Belief: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies a problem, e.g. different countries use different definitions and categories of religion and different methods of counting — **B1**

development, e.g. one country may record legal membership while another records self-identification, making direct comparison invalid without adjustment — **B1**

Answer: Different countries use different definitions and counting methods; for example, one country may record legal membership while another uses self-identification in a census, so direct comparisons can be invalid without careful adjustment.

Question 2

identifies one method, e.g. asking Likert-style questions about strength of belief in core doctrines or belief in God — **B1**

development of first method, e.g. using multiple items increases reliability and captures degrees of belief — **B1**

identifies a second method, e.g. asking about frequency of private prayer or meditation as a proxy for belief — **B1**

development of second method, e.g. frequency measures can pick up private practice linked to conviction even when people do not label themselves religious — **B1**

Answer: Researchers can ask Likert-style questions about strength of belief in doctrines or in God, using multiple items to increase reliability, and they can ask about frequency of private prayer or meditation as a proxy for belief, capturing private practice even when people do not label themselves religious.

Question 3

identifies an ethical issue, e.g. privacy and confidentiality of sensitive belief data — **B1**

brief development, e.g. respondents may fear discrimination if their beliefs are revealed, so anonymity is important — **B1**

Answer: Privacy and confidentiality are key concerns; respondents may fear discrimination if their beliefs are revealed, so anonymity and secure handling of data are important.

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