2.2 Sampling Methods in Sociological Research: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8192 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Where a question refers to Item A, use both the Item and your own knowledge of research methods in your answer.

1 Which of these is the best example of a sampling frame?

- ☐ A) A newspaper article about student life
- ☐ B) The university's register of enrolled students
- ☐ C) A television documentary about universities
- ☐ D) A sociology textbook chapter on education

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 Give one example of a sampling frame that would be likely to exclude people who are homeless.

(Total for Question 2 is 1 mark)

3 State one practical reason a sociologist might not be able to survey an entire research population.

(Total for Question 3 is 1 mark)

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4 Explain how a well-chosen sample helps a sociologist make claims about a wider population.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

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5 Sociologists need a sampling frame before they can select a sample using most sampling methods.

(a) Define the term 'sampling frame'. **(2)**

(b) Identify two examples of a sampling frame a sociologist could use to study pupils at a secondary school. **(2)**

(Total for Question 5 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 2.2 Sampling Methods in Sociological Research: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

B (the university's register of enrolled students) **B1**

Answer: B

Question 2

any one of: the electoral register; a council tax register; a GP patient list registered to a fixed address (any correct example that depends on a fixed home address) **B1**

Answer: The electoral register (registration usually requires a fixed home address, which many homeless people do not have).

Question 3

any one of: it would be too costly; it would take too much time; the population may be too large to reach everyone **B1**

Answer: Surveying the whole population would usually take too much time and money.

Question 4

if the sample is representative (reflects the characteristics of the wider population, e.g. its mix of ages or genders) **B1**

then findings from the sample can be generalised to the wider population with more confidence (oe) **B1**

Answer: If the sample represents the wider population's key characteristics, findings from it can be generalised to that population with confidence.

Question 5

(a) a list of every member of the research population (oe) **B1**

(a) from which a sample can then be selected (oe) **B1**

(a) Answer: A list of every member of the population being studied, from which a sample is drawn.

(b) one acceptable example, e.g. the school register/roll **B1**

(b) a second acceptable example, e.g. a list of Year 11 form groups, the school's exam entry list, a class register **B1**

(b) Answer: Any two of: the school register; a form-group or class list; the exam entry list.

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