# 2.7 Research Ethics: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8192 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

**Answer ALL questions. Use sociological vocabulary and name sociologists where you can.**

**1** Ethical guidance from bodies such as the British Sociological Association shapes how researchers plan their studies. Explain one way ethical guidance shapes how sociologists plan their studies.

**(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)**

**2** Following ethical guidelines fully is not always straightforward in practice. Explain one practical difficulty researchers may face when trying to follow ethical guidelines fully.

**(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)**

**3** Confidentiality and anonymity are related but distinct ethical principles. Define anonymity.

**(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)**

**4** State one reason researchers might choose to guarantee anonymity, rather than only confidentiality, when researching a sensitive topic.

**(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)**


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## Question 1

identifies that sociologists are generally expected to seek participants' informed consent, explaining the purpose of the research and what taking part will involve **B1**

development, e.g. also considering how they will protect participants' confidentiality, avoid causing harm, and plan for a genuine right to withdraw **B1**

**Answer: Sociologists are generally expected to seek participants' informed consent, explaining the research's purpose and what taking part will involve, and to plan how they will protect confidentiality, avoid causing harm, and offer a genuine right to withdraw.**

## Question 2

identifies a genuine practical difficulty, e.g. gaining fully informed consent from every member of a large group, such as everyone present in a public space being observed **B1**

development, e.g. is often practically impossible, so researchers may only be able to follow ethical guidelines partially **B1**

**Answer: Gaining fully informed consent from every member of a large group, such as everyone present in a public space being observed, is often practically impossible, so researchers may only be able to follow ethical guidelines partially.**

## Question 3

identifies anonymity as ensuring a participant's identity is not known or recorded at all, e.g. no names collected **B1**

development, e.g. so that even the researcher cannot link data back to a specific individual, going further than simply keeping identifiable data private (confidentiality) **B1**

**Answer: Anonymity means ensuring a participant's identity is not known or recorded at all, so that even the researcher cannot link data back to a specific individual, going further than confidentiality, which only means keeping identifiable data private.**

## Question 4

identifies a genuine reason, e.g. participants may be more willing to answer honestly about something sensitive **B1**

development, e.g. if they know not even the researcher can identify who gave which answer **B1**

**Answer: Participants may be more willing to answer honestly about a sensitive topic, such as bullying, if they know not even the researcher can identify who gave which answer, which anonymity, but not confidentiality alone, guarantees.**


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