

Ten mark assessment guidance

AQA A Level Sociology 7192 • Families & Households • L004 • v1.0

CONNECT & CHECK | SHARE | PRESENT | APPLY | RECALL & REVIEW

Outline and explain two ways definitions of family may affect research findings. [10 marks]

Original Paper 2-style practice. Question ID: RFTS-AQA-AL-SOC-7192-FAM-L004-Q002. Local best-fit guidance; not an official or endorsed AQA mark scheme.

Assessment focus

Two developed links between a definition and the inclusion, classification, interpretation or comparison of family research findings. Reward accurate knowledge, application and analysis. No separate introduction, conclusion or evaluation paragraph is required.

Marks	Best-fit characteristics
8–10	Accurate, detailed knowledge. Two distinct effects of definitions applied to family research, with sustained explanation of how each changes findings.
4–7	Some accurate knowledge and relevant application. Two ways may be uneven, or only one developed. Links between a rule and findings are partly explained.
1–3	Limited relevant knowledge. Assertions or examples dominate, with little explanation of how definitions affect findings.
0	No relevant creditworthy material.

Read the whole response and choose the closest band, then a mark reflecting precision and development. One developed way cannot enter 8–10. Do not give fixed marks per paragraph.

Model and feedback

One way is through inclusion. A residential definition requiring a couple or parent living with a child will not count the friends in case B as a family. A study using self-identified enduring care might include those friends if they meet that stated rule. The two studies can therefore produce different counts because their boundaries differ, rather than because one has necessarily made an arithmetic error.

A second way is through what a classification can reveal. Grouping all couples with children into one category supports a consistent count of a family form, but does not establish how they divide care or exercise power. Treating that category as a measure of equal roles would produce an invalid inference. A study of relationships would need additional measures that capture the practices it intends to explain.

Indicative judgement

The model explains inclusion and the meaning of a category as distinct routes. Other valid routes include changes to definitions over time affecting comparability, or ambiguous wording affecting consistency. Explain the consequence for findings rather than listing methodological terms. This illustrates the top band; the exact mark depends on the complete response.

Improvement target

If a response lists methodological terms, ask what would change in a finding and why. If both paragraphs repeat inclusion, develop interpretation or comparability as a distinct route. Credit alternative accurate explanations.

Alignment source

AQA Paper 2 specimen scheme: outline-and-explain format and level-based approach. Question and models are original. <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/sociology/AQA-71922-SMS.PDF>