

Ten mark assessment guidance

AQA A Level Sociology 7192 • Families & Households • L006 • v1.0

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Outline and explain two factors influencing the choice of method when investigating families. [10 marks]

Original Paper 2-style practice. Question ID: RFTS-AQA-AL-SOC-7192-FAM-L006-Q002. Local best-fit guidance; not an official or endorsed AQA mark scheme.

Assessment focus

Two distinct factors linked to a justified choice of research method in a family context. This applies a Paper 2-style explanation format; it is not a Methods in Context examination task. 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 ways or reasons applied to the question, with sustained explanation of how each operates.
4–7	Some accurate knowledge and relevant application. Two explanations may be uneven, or only one developed. Links to the question are partly explained.
1–3	Limited relevant knowledge. Assertions or examples dominate, with little explanation of the process relevant to the question.
0	No relevant creditworthy material.

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

Model and feedback

The research aim influences the method chosen. A researcher investigating what adults mean by a fair division of care may use semi-structured interviews. Follow-up questions allow participants to explain why the same arrangement feels fair or unfair to them, instead of forcing each account into fixed categories. This can improve understanding of meanings, although the interviewer must avoid leading respondents.

Ethical sensitivity also affects the choice. Questions about family conflict may expose private information or make a participant uncomfortable. An individual interview with informed consent and the option to skip questions may be more suitable than a group discussion with relatives present. The method offers greater control over disclosure, although confidentiality and its limits must still be explained.

Indicative judgement

The response distinguishes the aim of understanding meaning from managing sensitive disclosure. Each explains a method choice and its consequences. Practical time or access constraints and sampling requirements are alternative creditworthy factors if developed. This illustrates the top band; the exact mark depends on the complete response.

Improvement target

Replace a list of methods with two factors. Link each factor to a choice and explain the consequence for the investigation. An ethical safeguard must respond to an identified risk.

Alignment source

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