



National
Qualifications
2023

2023 Sociology

National 5

Finalised Marking Instructions

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General marking principles for National 5 Sociology

This information is provided to help you understand the general principles you must apply when marking candidate responses to questions in this paper. These principles must be read in conjunction with the specific marking instructions, which identify the key features required in candidate responses.

- (a) Marks for each candidate response must **always** be assigned in line with these general marking principles and the specific marking instructions for this assessment.
- (b) Marking should always be positive. This means that, for each candidate response, marks are accumulated for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding: they are not deducted from a maximum on the basis of errors or omissions.
- (c) If a candidate response does not seem to be covered by either the principles or specific marking instructions, and you are uncertain how to assess it, you must seek guidance from your team leader.
- (d) The term ‘or any other acceptable answer’ allows for the possible variation in candidate responses. Credit should be given according to the accuracy and relevance of candidates’ answers. The skill of using appropriate sociological terminology and relevant use of research evidence is reflected in exemplar responses. However, at this level candidates may be awarded marks where the answer is accurate but expressed in their own words.
- (e) Questions that ask, ‘does this . . . ?’, or ask the candidate to ‘name’, ‘define’ or ‘give examples’ are straightforward questions requiring candidates to recall key points of knowledge or to give examples. The number of marks available for these questions reflects the number of points the candidate needs to make. For example, if one mark is available the candidate needs to give one correct point. If three marks are available, the candidate needs to make three correct key points.
- (f) Questions that ask the candidate to ‘describe’ require the candidate to apply their sociological knowledge and understanding to make a point and then develop this point by giving further information. For example, if two marks are available you should award a mark for making the main point and a further mark for developing the point by giving additional or related information.
- (g) Questions that ask the candidate to ‘use’ or ‘explain’ require the candidate to apply their sociological knowledge and understanding to give more information about the meaning of something, to give reasons or show connections. This may include using appropriate examples, concepts or theories to explain an aspect of sociology. For example, if three marks are available for an ‘explain’ question, you should award one mark for making a key point of explanation and a further mark for each additional correct key point of explanation. Where a greater number of smaller points are made, you should use your professional judgement about whether or not these add up to the required ‘use’ or ‘application’.
- (h) For credit to be given, points must relate to the question asked. However, within a structured question of, say, two or three parts a candidate may give more information in the first part than is required and inadvertently have given the answer to the second part. In this case you should give credit for any correct information given, whether given in the correct part or not

Marking instructions for each question

Question		General marking instructions for this type of question	Max mark	Specific marking instructions for this question
1.	(a)	This question has a simple describe command. The candidate is required to make a relevant point then expand on this. Candidates are required to do this twice .	4	<p>This question asks candidates to describe two features of the sociological approach to understanding human society. Up to 2 marks can be given for any description.</p> <p>For example: Sociologists seek to understand the social world by investigating events through collection and analysis of data and providing context-based explanations. (2 marks)</p> <p>Sociologists formulate theories about what they find. These theories will then be tested by using scientific methods to assess their validity. (2 marks)</p> <p>Any other appropriate response.</p>

Question		General marking instructions for this type of question	Max mark	Specific marking instructions for this question
	(b)	Questions that ask the candidate to 'explain' require the candidate to give more information about the meaning of something, to give reasons or show connections.	6	<p>This question asks candidates to explain one advantage and one disadvantage of official statistics. Up to 3 marks for each explanation.</p> <p>For example: One advantage of official statistics is that it produces quantitative data which is easier to collate and analyse than qualitative data. (1 mark) This data can then be converted into graphs for more visual impact. (1 mark) These graphs may allow patterns and trends to be analysed. (1 mark)</p> <p>One disadvantage of official statistics is that it produces quantitative data which will only show 'what' behaviour is occurring and lacks the 'why' behind the behaviour. (1 mark) Due to closed questions, they lack detail (1 mark) and respondents cannot clarify their responses. (1 mark)</p> <p>Any other appropriate response.</p>
	(c)	This question has a simple describe command. The candidate is required to make a relevant point then expand on this. Candidates are required to do this twice .	4	<p>This question asks candidates to describe two features of a questionnaire. Up to 2 marks for each description</p> <p>For example: A questionnaire consists of a series of questions used to collect information from respondents. (1 mark) The list of questions is standardised meaning all respondents get asked the same questions. (1 mark)</p> <p>Questionnaires tend to produce quantitative data. (1 mark) They can be conducted online, by phone, on paper or face-to-face. (1 mark)</p> <p>Any other appropriate response.</p>

Question		General marking instructions for this type of question	Max mark	Specific marking instructions for this question
	(d)	Questions that ask the candidate to 'explain' require the candidate to give more information about the meaning of something, to give reasons or show connections.	6	<p>This question asks candidates to explain one advantage and one disadvantage of using non-participant observation as a research method.</p> <p>There are up to 3 marks available for the advantage and 3 marks available for the disadvantage.</p> <p>Non-participant observation can be overt or covert. Any answer where the candidate gives an advantage or disadvantage which only applies to one or the other, without stating they are referring to overt/covert, cannot be awarded full marks.</p> <p>For example: One advantage of using non-participant observation is that the researcher is able to see for themselves what the research subjects are doing. (1 mark) This means that there is less scope for misunderstanding as the researcher is directly watching what is happening. (1 mark) This can be particularly useful when trying to understand the behaviour of a group. (1 mark)</p> <p>One disadvantage of using non-participant observation is that it is very time consuming. (1 mark) The researcher must watch everything the research subjects are doing. The researcher cannot influence the subjects and so must observe what is happening regardless of knowing if it will be useful to the research topic. (2 marks)</p> <p>Any other appropriate response.</p>

Question		General marking instructions for this type of question	Max mark	Specific marking instructions for this question
	(e)	This question has a simple describe command. The candidate is required to describe a difference. Candidates are required to do this twice .	4	<p>This question asks candidates to describe two differences between structural and action perspectives. Up to 2 marks available for each difference.</p> <p>For example: Sociologists adopting a structural perspective are more likely to focus on the bigger picture (Macro) whilst sociologists adopting an action perspective are more likely to focus on smaller scale (Micro). (2 marks)</p> <p>Structural perspectives favour methods which produce quantitative data and action perspectives favour methods which produce qualitative data. (2 marks)</p> <p>Any other appropriate response.</p>
	(f)	Questions that ask the candidate to 'explain' require the candidate to give more information about the meaning of something, to give reasons or show connections.	6	<p>This question requires the candidate to use the action perspective to explain relationships among individuals, groups and institutions in society.</p> <p>Marks can be awarded in a number of ways.</p> <p>For example: The action perspective claims that individuals can choose what to do and can act differently from each other. (1 mark) For example, in elections individuals can choose the people who make the laws. (1 mark) Institutions in society are made up of the individuals who work for them and who make the decisions; therefore, individuals are influencing the institutions and society. (2 marks)</p> <p>Individuals can start campaigns which can influence society such as Rosa Parks in the USA who helped change Civil Rights. (2 marks)</p> <p>Any other appropriate response.</p>

Question		General marking instructions for this type of question	Max mark	Specific marking instructions for this question
2.	(a)	Questions that ask the candidate to 'explain' require the candidate to give more information about the meaning of something, to give reasons or show connections. This must be done twice .	6	<p>This question asks candidates to explain two ways agents of secondary socialisation can influence human behaviour. There are up to 3 marks available for each explanation.</p> <p>For example: One way that an agent of secondary socialisation can influence human social behaviour is when the media persuade people to believe that they are not living up to an ideal body image. (1 mark) Many people are influenced by the media showing them images of 'perfect' looking people. These are often fake which may cause people to go on crash diets or self-harm. (2 marks)</p> <p>Another way is how education can reinforce gender stereotypes. (1 mark) Although boys and girls are allowed to choose any subjects they want now, there are still far more boys who take physics and more girls who take hospitality. (1 mark) This can lead to them taking different courses in Higher Education and getting different jobs. (1 mark)</p> <p>Any other appropriate response.</p>

Question		General marking instructions for this type of question	Max mark	Specific marking instructions for this question
	(b) (i)	Questions that ask the candidate to 'explain' require the candidate to give more information about the meaning of something, to give reasons or show connections.	6	<p>This question asks candidates to explain two main features of a subculture they have studied. Up to 3 marks may be awarded for each explanation.</p> <p>For example: Skateboarders are renowned for their baggy jeans, loose fitting T-shirts and skate shoes. Some may think this is a fashion statement, but these are necessary for movement and being able to carry out quite complex tricks, a skater can't have their clothes restricting them. (2 marks) Mainstream sporting companies are beginning to make clothes especially for them now as the subculture becomes more popular. (1 mark)</p> <p>Another feature of skateboarders is that they share boards; it is common for people to try boards belonging to strangers at a skatepark and to swap equipment with each other (2 marks). This helps new skaters to make friends within the group and to strengthen bonds. (1 mark)</p> <p>Any other appropriate response.</p>
	(ii)	This question has a simple describe command. The candidate is required to make a relevant point then expand on this.	2	<p>Candidates are asked to describe one way the subculture differs from mainstream society.</p> <p>For example: Mainstream sports such as football and rugby have laws and rules, however, street skaters are free to express themselves by the tricks they perform and the challenges they choose to undertake. (2 marks)</p> <p>Any other appropriate response.</p>

Question		General marking instructions for this type of question	Max mark	Specific marking instructions for this question
	(c)	Questions that ask the candidate to 'explain' require the candidate to give more information about the meaning of something, to give reasons or show connections.	6	<p>This question asks candidates to explain what sociologists mean by the term identity.</p> <p>Marks may be awarded in a number of ways.</p> <p>For example: In sociology, identity is the qualities, beliefs, personality and looks that make a person or group. (1 mark) These can be a mixture of innate and acquired characteristics. (1 mark)</p> <p>For sociologists, people have a social identity which is a sense of self as a member of a social group. (1 mark) Sociologists use the concept of social identity to explain how people understand who they are and why they do what they do, such as developing class consciousness. (2 marks) Social identity can be expressed through social media. (1 mark)</p> <p>Any other appropriate response.</p>

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]