



St. Anne's Sixth Form

Get Ahead Tasks

Sociology A Level

One of the most important aspects of a sociologist's work is methodology, which relates to the ways in which data can be collected. You are going to explore this using the method of an unstructured interview.

1. Decide which topic you are going to explore from the table below: EITHER education OR crime.

2. Each 'focus' area should take at least 5 minutes to explore so that the total length of the interview will be at least 25 minutes. Depending on what your respondent says, you can take the conversation deeper or ask for more information. You are NOT just asking the question in the box here but asking questions around the focus area question to explore more widely and deeply.

Topic	Education	Crime
Focus 1	What is your experience of education?	What is your experience of crime?
Focus 2	What is the attitude of your family to education?	What is the attitude of your family to crime?
Focus 3	What can be done to improve the experience of education by individuals?	What can be done to improve the experience of crime by individuals?
Focus 4	What is the role of governments to improve the experience of education?	What is the role of governments to improve the experience of crime?
Focus 5	How do you think class, gender and ethnicity influence one's experience of education?	How do you think class, gender and ethnicity influence one's experience of crime?

Subject Leader: Mrs C Ferros

Exam Board: AQA



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3. How are you going to record your data? You could use your phone or make notes. This will depend on an ethical consideration (e.g. is your respondent happy to be recorded or are they afraid you might play the interview to other people and then they are not anonymous?) and a practical consideration (e.g. is it easier after the interview to have it in a written note form, but will this mean valuable information is lost as you cannot write everything down?)

4. Finally, who are you going to interview? This can be anyone you know (e.g. a family member or friend). I would suggest you do not pick someone 'similar to you' for example try to find someone who could be of a different age from you or a different gender or a different ethnicity or different nationality or different class.

5. You need to write up your results. There is no maximum length but as a guideline 2-4 A4 sides should be about right. Use the following structure (a paragraph for each section, though maybe more for b.):

1. Justify *why* you have chosen education or crime. Try to link this not just to your personal interest but something about this topic in society today (e.g. a fact or event or impact on society linked to this topic).
2. Overall *summary*: what were the main findings? Do NOT write down everything literally that your respondent wrote but you can quote some sentences that you think are significant.
3. Give anonymous information about your *respondent* (age, gender, ethnicity etc but NOT their name). Explain how you found them and why you picked them. Also describe *how you recorded* your information and where you conducted the interview.
4. Provide one *advantage* and one *disadvantage* to exploring this topic using an unstructured interview.
5. Implications: what would you do differently in *future*? For example, what method might you choose or how would you change your sample (= respondent) to make it more representative or how would you explore the topic differently?

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