





Personal Learning Checklist (PLC)

Subject - GCSE Sociology (Eduqas 9-1)					
Topic/Sub-Topic – Unit 2: Sociological Research Methods					
S = I have Summarised ✓ O = I have Organised (RAG or ☺☺☺) R = I have Recalled ✓ T	r = I have	= I have Tested Myself 🗸			
I can	S	0	R	Т	
1) Usefulness of different types of data					
Describe and explain the differences between primary and secondary research					
data, with reference to specific and relevant examples.					
Describe and explain the differences between qualitative and quantitative data,					
with reference to specific and relevant examples.					
Describe and explain various sources of secondary data, including diaries, journals	,				
official and non-official statistics.					
Evaluate the advantages, disadvantages and usefulness of these types of data to					
sociologists.					
2) Methods of research					
Describe, discuss and evaluate qualitative and quantitative methods of research					
including questionnaires, structured and unstructured interviews and different					
types of observations (overt, covert, participant and non-participant).					
Describe, discuss and evaluate the value, practical application and strengths /					
weaknesses of different methods in terms of validity, reliability, ethics and					
representativeness.					
Describe, discuss and evaluate mixed methods approaches.					
3) Sampling processes					
Describe and explain the differences between representative and non-					
representative sampling techniques.					
Evaluate and advantages and disadvantages of using representative and non-					
representative sampling techniques.					
4) Practical issues affecting research					
Describe and explain different practical issues and how they can impact upon					
research projects.					
Describe and explain difficulties involved in gaining access to suitable research					
participants.					
Describe and explain what it means to be the "gatekeeper" that allows access to					
research.					
Describe, explain and evaluate the impact of time, money and resources (human					
and physical) upon research projects.					

5) Ethical issues affecting research	T		
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Describe, explain and evaluate problems resulting from a lack of informed consent			
in research (including clear differentiation between consent and informed			
consent).	<u> </u>		
Describe, explain and evaluate problems resulting from a lack of confidentiality			
when it comes to participant data in research.	<u> </u>		
Describe, explain and evaluate problems resulting from harm caused to			
participants (physical or psychological) due to their involvement in research.			
Describe, explain and evaluate problems resulting from a lack of informed consent			
in research.			
Describe, explain and evaluate problems resulting from using deception in			
research.			
Describe, explain and evaluate problems resulting from a lack of i=debriefing of			
participants after they have been involved in research.			
Describe, explain and evaluate problems resulting from not making participants			
aware of their right to leave any research project.			
Describe, explain and evaluate the different ethical problems encountered in a			_
range of real research projects, with a focus upon the impact upon participants and			
the research data gained.			
Applied methods of sociological enquiry			
1) The process of research design			
Describe and explain the process of research design – including			
 choosing a research area 			
 establishing an aim and/or hypothesis 			
 choosing a method 			
use of pilot study			
 selection of sampling techniques 			
analysis of data			
 usefulness of mixed methods approach. 			
2) Interpreting data	+		
Explain how to interpret graphs, diagrams, charts and tables in order to discern	+		
patterns and trends.			
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