

Exam Question Type 1 - Low Tariff Describe Questions

1. **Describe** what sociologists mean by ??? (3 marks)

Step 1: Define the Key ??? term (1st mark gained)

Step 2: Develop with an example (2nd mark)

Step 3: Add a more complex explanation (3rd mark)

Basic 3 Mark 'Describe/Identify and Describe' Question Scheme

Level	Marks	Descriptor
3	3	A coherent description with few inaccuracies. Demonstrates good knowledge and understanding of relevant sociological theories, concepts, evidence and methods. (AO1)
2	2	A partial description based on a mix of relevant and irrelevant material with some inaccuracies and omissions. Demonstrates some knowledge and understanding of relevant sociological theories, concepts, evidence and methods. (AO1)
1	1	Fragments of knowledge, some inaccurate or irrelevant. Demonstrates limited understanding of relevant sociological theories, concepts, evidence and methods. (AO1)
0	0	Nothing worthy of credit.

Exam Question Type 2 - Low Tariff Identify and Describe/Explain Questions

1. **Identify and describe/explain ???** (3 or 4 marks)

Step 1: Define the Key ??? term in the question and then state a relevant example (1st mark gained)

Step 2: Develop with a description sentence/example (2nd mark)

Step 3: Go onto more complex explanation (3rd and 4th mark)

Basic 4 Mark 'Identify and Explain' Question Scheme

Level	Mark	Descriptor
4	4	Relevant disadvantage selected (AO1) and an appropriate, detailed and well-developed explanation of relevant sociological theories, concepts, evidence and methods offered with a good application to the context. (AO2)
3	3	Relevant disadvantage selected (AO1) with an explanation of relevant sociological theories, concepts, evidence and methods containing some inaccuracies or omissions but which has some application to the context. (AO2)
2	2	Relevant disadvantage selected (AO1) with a largely inaccurate or irrelevant explanation of relevant sociological theories, concepts, evidence and methods that is only weakly applied to the context. (AO2)
1	1	Relevant disadvantage selected. (AO1)
0	0	Nothing worthy of credit.

Focus 3 - Research Linked Questions

Item A

Despite concerns over the increase in the number of children in single-parent families, recent research has found that children raised by a single parent are no less happy than those living with two biological parents. Rather, it is the quality of relationships at home which are most strongly linked to a child's well-being.

Researchers analysed data from the Millennium Cohort Study, which was made up of 12 877 children aged seven, in 2008, from across the UK. The children came from three family types: those living with two biological parents; those living with a step-parent and a biological parent; and those with just a single parent.

The seven-year-olds were asked the question: "How often do you feel happy?" Of the children living with a lone parent, 36 per cent said they were happy "all the time" while the remaining 64 per cent reported being happy "sometimes or never".

Exactly the same percentages were recorded when the question was put to children from the other family types.

The results were largely unchanged when other factors which could influence a child's well-being were taken into account, such as their parents' social class or the affluence of the area in which they live.

5. From **Item A**, examine one strength of the research. (2)

Basic 2 Mark 'Examine one strength/weakness' Question Scheme

AO3 = 2 marks. (Analyse and evaluate sociological theories, concepts, evidence and methods in order to construct arguments, make judgements and draw conclusions.)

1 mark for providing evidence of an analysis of the item (by indicating a possible strength) demonstrating a line of argument relating either to methods or findings. (AO3)

Plus

1 mark for providing evidence of evaluation (making a judgement/reaching a conclusion) by indicating a reason why this element represents a possible strength. (AO3)

Exam Question Type 4 - Discuss How Far Questions

Discuss how far sociologists agree" (12 marks)

Step 1: Define 1st key term ??? in an introduction (Band 1: 1, 2, 3marks)

Step 2: Paragraph with evidence IN agreement

(Basic points get only Band 1, to be Band 2 needs to include survey evidence, explanation of key concepts or sociologists ideas)

Step 3: Paragraph with evidence NOT IN agreement

(as above for Band 3/4)

Step 4: Conclusion how far the sociologists agree (to secure Band 4)

Basic 12 Mark 'Discuss' Question Scheme

Level	Marks	Description
4	10-12	<p>Detailed knowledge and understanding of relevant theories, concepts, evidence and methods presented in a well-developed answer. A wide range of specialist terms used with precision. (AO1)</p> <p>Sustained application of relevant theories, concepts, evidence and methods to the issues raised by the question. Few if any inaccuracies or omissions. (AO2)</p> <p>Developed critical analysis and evaluation of the relevant theories, concepts, evidence and methods. Well-constructed arguments with supported judgements and evidence based conclusions. (AO3)</p>
3	7-9	<p>Good evidence of relevant knowledge and understanding of theories, concepts, evidence and methods but elements lacking detail and development. A good range of specialist terms used appropriately. (AO1)</p> <p>Good application of relevant theories, concepts, evidence and methods to the issues raised by the question. Some inaccuracies or omissions. (AO2)</p> <p>Good evidence of analysis and evaluation of the relevant theories, concepts, evidence and methods. A logical argument, but judgements and conclusions may be indistinct and/or lacking in appropriate development. (AO3)</p>
2	4-6	<p>Limited evidence of relevant knowledge and understanding of theories, concepts, evidence and methods. A limited range of specialist terms used appropriately. (AO1)</p> <p>Limited application of relevant theories, concepts, evidence and methods to the issues raised by the question. Significant inaccuracies or omissions. (AO2)</p> <p>Limited attempt at analysis and evaluation of the relevant theories, concepts, evidence and methods but lacking in appropriate development. There may be inconsistencies in the argument made and reasoning may be inaccurate leading to false or contradictory judgements and conclusions. (AO3)</p>
1	1-3	<p>Fragments of basic knowledge and understanding of theories, concepts, evidence and methods relevant to the topic. Specialist terms generally used inappropriately if at all. (AO1)</p> <p>Little or no application of relevant theories, concepts, evidence and methods to the issues raised by the question. (AO2)</p> <p>Little or no analysis of the relevant theories, concepts, evidence and methods, assertion rather than evaluation, poorly constructed argument with little or no evidence of substantiated judgements and only cursory conclusions. (AO3)</p>