

# Sociology Research Methods PLC

*Page numbers refer to RM booklet (see QR code).*

Topic	Subtopic		I have the notes and resources I need	I have created revision resources	I have answered an exam question linked to this topic	RAG
What is the relationship between theory and methods?	Positivism: (Topic 1)	patterns				
		trends				
		objectivity				
		quantitative data				
	Interpretivism: (Topic 2)	meanings and experiences				
		verstehen and empathy				
		rapprochement				
		subjectivity				
		researcher imposition				
		reflexivity				
	Key research concepts: (Topic 3)	validity				
		reliability				
		representativeness				
generalisability						
What are the main stages of the research process?	Key concepts in the research process: (Topic 4-5)	factors influencing the choice of research topic				
		aims/hypothesis/research questions				
		primary data				
		secondary data				
		operationalisation				
		pilot studies				
		data collection				
		respondent validation				
		longitudinal studies				
		interpretation of data				
	the relationship between sociology and social policy.					
	understand the practical, ethical and theoretical factors influencing choice of sampling process (Topic 3, 7 & 8).					
	Sampling techniques (Topic 6)	random				
		systematic				
		stratified				
		snowball				
		volunteer				
opportunity						
purposive						
quota						
Access and gatekeeping (Topic 7)						

	understand how samples are accessed and the issues with access.				
	understand ethical considerations such as those used by the British Sociological Association and why ethical principles should be followed. (Topic 8)				
<b>Which methods are used in sociological research?</b> consider the uses of research methods in the context of social inequalities.	Research methods:  (Topics 9 & 10) - Also refer to RM workbook.	questionnaires			
		structured interviews			
		statistical data (official and non-official)			
		content analysis			
		observations (participant, non-participant, covert, overt)			
		unstructured interviews			
		semi structured interviews			
		ethnography			
	Quantitative and qualitative data				
	Mixed methods (Topic 11)	triangulation			
methodological pluralism					

**Things you can do now:**

**If you have an hour** – do some timed questions in exam conditions. Allow yourself 1 mark per minute. Be strict. It's up to you if you want to do them open book to practice your exam technique or closed book to test your knowledge. You can find exam questions at the end of each topic in the research methods booklet (scan QR code). Mrs Altindal is happy to mark any extra essays you do.



[Link to RM booklet.](#)

**Or in an hour you could** – make full notes on the lesson that you have had that day / the day before. Mind map the information fully – changing it from full note form into diagram / pictures / a different format.

**At another time**, you could read over your past notes and then attempt to make a mind map to check your knowledge and understanding. Keep adding to it in different colours, the more that you remember.

**If you have thirty minutes** - Check your knowledge of the key terms for any of the units.

**If you have twenty minutes** – Read over the next topic in preparation for your next lesson. Note down any questions that you might have, anything you don't understand or anything at all that might strike you about this information.

**Only ten minutes?** - Answer any source-based question or give research methods a go.