

06. The Scenario Question

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Daily Review

Task 1: choose two research methods and evaluate each.

Learning Intentions

- I am learning to understand how to answer scenario questions.
- I am learning to be able to identify key aspects in a scenario question.

Success Criteria

- I can identify the key aspects in a scenario question.
- I can structure an answer to the scenario question.

New Material

The Scenario Question will be Q9 in your exam. It is worth 15 marks and should take you about 30 minutes to answer.

You must refer to the scenario in the question throughout your answer.

You should also use up to date examples to support your analysis and evaluation throughout your answer - ideally these are crime related, but as long as they relate to the research method or scenario, then they will be accepted.

There are a total of **six analysis** marks, **six evaluation** marks, and **three conclusion** marks available.

Analysis – award up to a maximum of 6 marks			
0 marks	1–2 marks	3–4 marks	5–6 marks
No evidence of analysis – purely descriptive response. OR Analysis is not at all relevant to the question.	Candidate's analysis identifies aspects of the research method which are relevant to the question but <ul style="list-style-type: none">• does not identify the most relevant aspects OR <ul style="list-style-type: none">• does not link the aspects to the scenario. Alternatively Award 2 marks where analysis identifies only one key aspect and links the aspect with the issue in the scenario.	Candidate's analysis identifies key aspects of the research method which is relevant to the question and <ul style="list-style-type: none">• identifies relevant links of key aspects to the source• includes relevant and contemporary supporting evidence.	Candidate meets the criteria for 4 marks and <ul style="list-style-type: none">• links analytical comments on the aspects to evaluative comments. Award full marks where analysis shows understanding of the question and its implications, by linking sufficient key or most relevant aspects with knowledge of social science research methods.

Evaluation (research methods) – award up to a maximum of 6 marks			
0 marks	1–2 marks	3–4 marks	5–6 marks
No evidence of evaluation (purely descriptive response). OR Evaluative points are not relevant to the question. OR Evaluative comments lack reasoning.	Candidate makes points of evaluation about the suitability of the research method in question but <ul style="list-style-type: none">• supporting evidence doesn't back up the evaluation• lack of development in reasoning OR <ul style="list-style-type: none">• only one developed*, relevant point of evaluation is made which has supporting evidence. <p>*Developed points may include, for example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• evidence• reasons• background information, support or reinforcement. <p>Award a maximum of 1 mark where the reasoning is not developed or the candidate makes only one evaluative point.</p>	Candidate makes developed, relevant points of evaluation about the suitability of the research method in question and in addition <ul style="list-style-type: none">• evaluative comments clearly address the stated research method(s) in relation to the specified scenario• addresses the potential effectiveness of the key stated research method in relation to the specified scenario.	Candidate meets the criteria for 4 marks and <ul style="list-style-type: none">• addresses ethical issues in relation to the key stated research method(s)• where there is only one stated method the candidate also evaluates their own alternative method, or combination of methods, of researching the issue OR <ul style="list-style-type: none">• where there are two stated methods the candidate evaluates both methods and/or their own alternative method, or combination of methods, of researching the issue.

Conclusion – award up to a maximum of 3 marks			
0 marks	1 mark	2 marks	3 marks
No evidence of concluding remarks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concluding remarks simply summarise the key elements or main points 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The conclusion follows from a line of argument and is supported by reasons/evidence It is clear which research method is preferred in relation to the specified scenario 	<p>Candidate meets the criteria for 2 marks and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> their line of argument integrates points of analysis and evaluation, using these to support the overall judgement their reasons for preferring/rejecting the research methods are clear.

Evaluation Questions

You may wish to consider the following questions for each research method you discuss.

1. What are the strengths/uses of this method?
2. What are the weaknesses/limitations of this method?
3. Will this provide me with qualitative or quantitative evidence?
4. Are there any ethical/moral issues in using this method?
5. How reliable is this method? Why?
6. How valid is this method? Why?
7. How easy is it to use a representative sample with this method?
8. How easy is it to generalise your findings with this method?

How to answer

Intro sentence - what is your preferred method?

Section 1 – the first research method in the question

- A paragraph considering the strengths of the method in regards to the question.
- A paragraph considering the limitations of the methods in regards to the question.
- A paragraph considering the ethical considerations for the method.

Section 2 – alternative method (1)

- A paragraph considering the strengths of an alternative methods. Evaluate to consider why is it better than the method in the question.
- A paragraph considering the limitations of an alternative method. Evaluate to consider why it may not be as strong as the method in the question.
- A paragraph considering the ethical considerations for your alternative method.

Section 3 – alternative method (2) OPTIONAL

- A paragraph considering the strengths of an alternative methods. Consider why is it better than the method in the question.
- A paragraph considering the limitations of an alternative method. Consider why it may not be as strong as the method in the question.
- A paragraph considering the ethical considerations for your alternative method.

Section 4 – conclusion

- A conclusion which evaluates which method would be better for the scenario.
- This conclusion should follow your line of argument.
- You should clearly say why you prefer/reject specific research methods.
- For top marks, you should integrate points of analysis and evaluation, using these to support the overall judgement.

WHEN DISCUSSING THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF YOUR RESEARCH METHODS YOU MUST INCLUDE RELEVANT EXAMPLES.

Practice and Prove it

Task 2: Plan and complete the following question.

Question 9

You are researching the motivations of white collar criminals.

To what extent would a case studies approach be the best method for investigating this issue?

In your answer you should make reference to relevant examples.

You should include reference to an alternative method(s) in addition to case studies.

Plenary

Task 3: How confident do you feel in the answer you have written to the question above? Mark the image below.

How I feel	
5	
	I need some help!
4	
	I'm really upset.
3	
	I've got a problem.
2	
	Things are pretty good.
1	
	Feeling Great!