

EXAM-DAY · 90-MIN REVISION CARD

Doing Sociology: Research Methods

Print this · Fold it · Carry to the exam-hall gate · Revise once · Then walk in.

FORMULAS & KEY RESULTS

{'label': 'Two big families', 'value': 'QUANTITATIVE (numbers, surveys, large N) ↔ QUALITATIVE (meaning, fieldwork, small N)'}

 {'label': 'Objectivity (Weber)', 'value': 'Value-neutrality = declare your bias + separate fact from value-judgement'}

{'label': 'Reflexivity', 'value': 'Researcher reflects on HOW their identity (caste/gender/class) shapes data'}

{'label': 'Participant observation classics', 'value': 'Malinowski — Trobriand Islands (1915-18); Srinivas — Rampura (1948+)'}

 {'label': 'Sampling types', 'value': 'Random · Stratified · Purposive · Snowball'}

{'label': 'Interview types', 'value': 'Structured · Semi-structured · Unstructured · Life history · Oral history'}

{'label': 'Ethics 3-pillar', 'value': 'Informed consent · Anonymity · No harm'}

{'label': 'Indian fieldwork pioneers', 'value': 'Ghurye (Caste, 1932) · Karve (Kinship, 1953) · Srinivas (Rampura, 1955) · A.R. Desai (Rural Sociology)'}

TOP 5 PYQ PATTERNS

1 Define participant observation + give one example

6 marks · 32% of years
5-step template; ALWAYS pair definition with Srinivas/Malinowski

2 Quantitative vs Qualitative — distinguish

4 marks · 24% of years
Four-axis contrast table in answer; close with triangulation

3 Survey method — features OR sampling types

6 marks · 18% of years
Name 4 sampling types with one-line each; mention NSSO

4 Objectivity / value-neutrality (Weber)

4 marks · 14% of years
Cite Weber by name; explain reflexivity as the modern update

5 Ethics in social research

4 marks · 12% of years
Three-pillar diagram: consent, anonymity, no harm + one example of breach

90-MIN REVISION FLOW

0-10 min

Read the one-page cheat sheet; close book; write the 8 formula-grid rows from memory

10-25 min

Re-read Part A (Why methods?) + Part B (Field methods); mark Srinivas + Malinowski yellow

25-40 min

Practice the 6-mark Participant Observation template; time yourself at 8 minutes

40-55 min

Drill 10 MCQs from the drill set; correct mistakes against explanations

55-70 min

Re-read Part C (Surveys/Interviews) + ethics; build the 3-pillar diagram from memory

70-85 min

Write the 4-mark Quantitative vs Qualitative answer in 6 minutes; self-check against template

Confidence, not anxiety. You've practised this all year. Trust your steps. Don't change strategy on exam morning.
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