



Worksheet 1: Research methods in context answers

Question 1 – as well as the example included in the worksheet there are two acceptable additional answers below.

- 1 Using the information in **Source A**, explain **two** reasons why the statistics are not useful in investigating life expectancy across the world.

a)

The statistics are not useful in investigating life expectancy across the world because: *only data from six countries are shown.*

Explain the reason: *Six countries are too small a number to represent all countries around the world, therefore it is unrepresentative and researchers cannot generalise from the results.*

b)

The statistics are not useful in investigating life expectancy across the world because: *the data has been gathered from official statistics collected by a government.*

Explain the reason: *This can be inaccurate because governments may manipulate the figures to create a better picture of life expectancy than is the case, for political reasons.*



Question 2 – as well as the example included in the worksheet there are two acceptable additional answers below.

- 1 Using the information in **Source A**, explain **two** reasons why semi-structured interviews were useful in investigating women's experiences of housework.

a)

Semi-structured interviews were useful in investigating women's experience of housework because: *they allowed her to probe the women for more detail.*

Explain the reason by reference to the research: *This means the interviews allowed her to ask follow-up open questions. This gave the researcher the chance to gain more detailed qualitative data about the women's experiences of housework, enhancing the validity of the data.*

b)

Semi-structured interviews were useful in investigating women's experience of housework because: *they can have some closed, standardised questions.*

Explain the reason by reference to the research: *This means that there may be some quantitative data such as what types and how many hours of housework women do, which could be used to compare with the previous findings of Wilmott and Young.*