

## Sociological Methods

See Jorgensen et. al. ***Sociology, An Interactive Approach*** (1997) p 292 ff.

*There are a number of other texts which have a chapter on methodology. There are some texts which refer to nothing but social science research methods. See as many as you can to develop your notes.*

### Exercise 1

What do the following words or terms mean?

primary sources

respondent

qualitative

structured interview

questionnaire

sampling

secondary sources

survey methods

quantitative

unstructured interview

observation

representative sampling

### Exercise 2

Copy table 7.4 page 297 and learn it.

### Exercise 3

What dangers are there in accepting official statistics without question? Develop this by looking up 'the dark figure of crime' in text books and explaining why criminal statistics are so untrustworthy.

### Exercise 4

Name five sources of official data.

Look in Social Trends 95 in the LRC and make notes on any topic that you find interesting.

Look at Social Trends on CD Rom and read around any topics that you would like to know more about.

Which source of data was more interesting, the book or the CD Rom. Give reasons for your views.

### Exercise 5

Look at Activity 12 page 300 and attempt to answer the two questions.

Why is personal data and recollection so unreliable a source for a sociologist? Why do so many sociologists like to use such materials.

### Exercise 6

What sort of data would you use if you wanted to compare and contrast everyday life in two areas of Barry such as Lakeside and Cadoxton?