



Worksheet 2: Interpreting qualitative data sources

Read the sources and answer the questions.

Question 1

Source A: The Sociology of Housework (1974)

Ann Oakley is a British feminist who wanted to end women's subordination to men in both the home and wider society. In her famous study 'The Sociology of Housework' (1974) Oakley tried to understand the experience of housework from the point of view of the women who did it. Her aims were to describe the housewife's situation and to examine patterns of dissatisfaction.

Oakley conducted 40 semi-structured interviews with London housewives. The housewives were aged between 20 and 30. They were all mothers with at least one child under five. The interviews took two hours each and the interviews were conducted in the women's homes. She recorded the conversations so that she could have an accurate account of each interview. Using a tape recorder to record the women's words also allowed her to keep eye contact and therefore keep the conversations as natural as possible.

Oakley concluded that many housewives in her sample did most or all the housework and they experienced housework as boring, repetitive and with little or no reward. Her findings disagreed with a previous study by Wilmott and Young which suggested that there is now more gender equality in housework.

- 1 From **Source A**, identify **two** conclusions from Ann Oakley's study 'The Sociology of Housework'.

- 2 From **Source A**, identify **two** reasons why recording the interviews was useful.

- 3 From **Source A**, identify **two** characteristics of the sample in Ann Oakley's study 'The Sociology of Housework'.

- 4 From **Source A**, identify **two** aims of Ann Oakley's study 'The Sociology of Housework'.



Question 2

Source A: The Millennium Cohort Study

The Millennium Cohort Study is a longitudinal study which began in 2000 with a sample of 19 000 children and their families. Researchers track children at various time intervals.

The study aims to show how differences in early socialisation affect child development in health and also in education. The study also allows researchers to compare the development of children of different sexes and from different economic backgrounds.

The main research methods used during the study include questionnaires which are used to gather information about the child and family background, mental health and wellbeing, housing, employment and income. Cognitive tests measure verbal, language and numeric ability through childhood. Physical tests and self-reported health data provide information about different health conditions experienced by the study members.

Early findings showed:

- children from lower-income families, with parents who were less educated, were less advanced in their development at age five
- living in social housing put them behind in maths and literacy
- girls were consistently outperforming boys at the age of five in creative subjects and in literacy.

1 From **Source A**, identify **two** findings from 'The Millennium Cohort Study'.

2 From **Source A**, identify **two** methods of research used in 'The Millennium Cohort Study'.

3 From **Source A**, identify **two** topic areas the questionnaire gathers information on in 'The Millennium Cohort Study'.

4 From **Source A**, identify **two** aims of 'The Millennium Cohort Study'.
