

How to answer 3 mark questions

These questions take two forms:

1. Describe....
2. Identify and describe...

How to approach 'Describe....'

Whilst it's not awarded like this, you need to write enough to gain 3 marks.
This question is a describe so you don't need to identify first.
You need to say what you see.

How to approach 'Identify and describe...'

Identify (one mark) then describe (2 marks).
Make your identification clear and accurate for the question.
Then describe the way you refer to. Keep it linked to the identified way.

Top tips:

- Read the question carefully as subtle differences can mean different things (e.g. home based vs school based, quantitative vs qualitative).
- Use your glossaries - many 3 mark questions are 'define what sociologists mean by....'
- Include key terms where appropriate
- Only address what is asked - don't go off on a tangent!

Model answer

Describe a home-based factor which could influence a student's educational achievement (3 Marks)

Material deprivation influences achievement. The living conditions, for example poor housing and overcrowding can potentially affect performance at school. Students from more affluent backgrounds are possibly more likely to have facilities, such as computers and quiet spaces, to help them study at home, therefore improving their achievement.

Identify & describe one example of a type of secondary school in Britain today (3 Marks)

One school is a state-funded comprehensive school. This is a school where all students of secondary age can go, regardless of ability, as there is no entrance exam. They source students from a local area (catchment).

Describe one factor that determines whether an act is considered to be a crime (3 marks)

Identify and describe one source of data on crime (3 marks)

How to answer 3 mark questions

These questions take two forms: 3. Describe.... 4. Identify and describe...	
<u>How to approach 'Describe....'</u>	<u>How to approach 'Identify and describe...'</u>
Whilst it's not awarded like this, you need to write enough to gain 3 marks. This question is a describe so you don't need to identify first. You need to say what you see.	Identify (one mark) then describe (2 marks). Make your identification clear and accurate for the question. Then describe the way you refer to. Keep it linked to the identified way.
Top tips: • Read the question carefully as subtle differences can mean different things (e.g. home based vs school based, quantitative vs qualitative). • Use your glossaries - many 3 mark questions are 'define what sociologists mean by....' • Include key terms where appropriate • Only address what is asked - don't go off on a tangent!	

Model answer

Describe a home-based factor which could influence a students educational achievement (3 Marks) Material deprivation influences achievement. The living conditions, for example poor housing and overcrowding can potentially affect performance at school. Students from more affluent backgrounds are possibly more likely to have facilities, such as computers and quiet spaces, to help them study at home, therefore improving their achievement.	Identify & describe one example of a type of secondary school in Britain today (3 Marks) One school is a state-funded comprehensive school. This is a school where all students of secondary age can go, regardless of ability, as there is no entrance exam. They source students from a local area (catchment).
Describe one factor that determines whether an act is considered to be a crime (3 marks)	Identify and describe one source of data on crime (3 marks)

--	--