Planning your Questionnaire Study

Using the information covered in the introduction to social science research slides to help you, work through the below questions to plan your study.

Group:…………………………………………………………………………………………………………...

**Your Research Aim(s) and Questions**

**What is the overall aim(s) of your research?**

*The aims are the overall purpose of the study. They make the general topic clear. For example, an aim might be to investigate the health of pupils in your school.*

**Identify the key term(s) in your aim(s) – explain how you define each key term.**

*Key terms are the important variables or concepts in your study. Often they can be defined in different ways by different people, so it is important to know how your research team are defining each one. For example, ‘health’ could refer to physical or mental health, and could be broken down further into different aspects.*

**What are your specific research questions?**

*Try to break down your overall research aim(s) into questions which you will try to answer. It is important that these questions are specific, clear, and achievable.*

**Your Participants**

**Who could give you information relevant to your research questions?**

*These are the overall populations you will select participants from. For example, pupils, school staff, parents.*

**Are there any participant characteristics which are important for your research?**

*For example, you might be interested in pupils studying particular subjects, or who are in certain school years. Also think about your inclusion and exclusion criteria (for example, if you are only including one school year group, then ‘school year’ would be an important criterion).*

**What will your sample be?**

*It is often not possible to include everyone in your potential participants, so researchers usually collect data from a sample – a sub-set of people. For example, you might select one form group at random from each school year or only include certain school years.*

**Where and When will you Conduct Your Research**

**When might you be able to ask people to complete your study?**

*For example, in class time, in form group time, at breaks or lunchtimes etc.*

**Who would you need to ask permission from?**

*For example, the class teachers, the form tutors, lunchtime supervisors, head of year staff*

**How long can your questionnaire take?**

*Based on your answers to the above, how long would it be realistic for your questionnaire to take people to complete? For example, if you will collect data during sessions which last 20 minutes, then your questionnaire would need to take no more than 10 minutes because you need time to give them out and collect them.*

**Timescale**

It is important that you set realistic goals for when you will complete parts of your research.

**Your goals**

Set goals for when you will work on each part of the study. Some might overlap!

***Research Plan***

Start: Today Finish by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Questionnaire Design***

Start: Today Finish by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Data Collection***

Start: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Finish by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Data Analysis***

Start: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Finish by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Prepare Report on Findings***

Start: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Finish by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Present Findings to School***

By: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_