

Dialectics IAS

For One-To-One Mentorship

Examiner's Expectations and Evaluation Guidelines

Examiner's Expectations

What the examiner expects in the answer? The answer to this question lies in the question itself. If one reads the question carefully, he/she can read the mind of the examiner. As a general rule, one must focus on the keywords and phrases used in the question. One must also try to sense the overall tone of the question.

Question asked on 30 November 2025

Q. Elucidate how mixed method approach addresses the concerns of reliability and validity in social research. (20)

Key words and phrases: 'elucidate', 'mixed method approach', 'concerns of reliability and validity in social research'

The language of the question indicates that the examiner is looking not only for clarity regarding the concepts of reliability and validity but also interested in knowing the practical challenges that a researcher may face in addressing the concerns of reliability and validity when the research is actually conducted. Since mixed method approach involves the use of both quantitative as well as qualitative methods of research, candidate must highlight the advantages and limitations of both before explaining that how mixed method approach addresses the concerns of reliability and validity.

Evaluation Guidelines

Reliability and validity – meaning and significance in establishing Sociology as a science (20%)

Features of quantitative research methods – advantages and limitations with the help of case studies (20%)

Features of qualitative research methods – advantages and limitations with the help of case studies (20%)

Relevance of mixed method approach (also called as blended approach, pluralistic methodology, triangulation, etc.) in addressing the concerns of reliability and validity in social research with the help of examples and case studies (40%)

Credits: Prof. N. Sukumar

Result

Out of the 11 answers received by 11:59 PM on Wednesday, 3 December 2025, only two answers (by Sandeep Patil and Nikhil Jain) could secure 40% marks.

Practice Questions are posted every Sunday.

Best wishes



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