

1.5 Explain how assumptions shape social interpretations

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 24 marks**KEY WORDS** paradigm 范式 • assumptions 假设 • operationalisation 操作化

Objective

Explain how assumptions shape social interpretations. This is original GAC027/GAC028-aligned practice, not an official assessment. All people, texts, records and instructions are fictional. The case data are invented for learning; they are not findings about a real school, country or population. Use the supplied evidence and do not invent missing observations.

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

■ **Key knowledge: a framework selects questions but must remain open to evidence**

A **paradigm** 范式 is a broad framework for interpreting a social situation. It helps a researcher ask questions, but can also direct attention away from alternative explanations. **Assumptions** 假设 are ideas accepted at the start; they are not automatically findings. **Operationalisation** 操作化 turns an idea into a defined observation. Define participation before comparing people, and test an explanation rather than treating a group label as proof.

■ **Source A: text or task brief**

A fictional school club runs a voluntary planning forum. Researchers invite 24 members and define participation as making at least one post during a seven-day period. There are 12 posters and 12 nonposters. Of the nonposters, 7 report that the platform does not work on their available device, 3 report no free time during the week, and 2 give no reason. These are self-reports, not verified diagnoses.

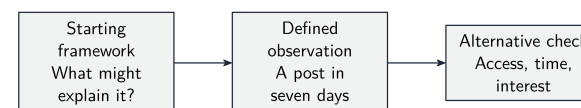
Two researchers propose different starting explanations. A motivation-focused framework asks whether members value the club enough to contribute. An access-focused framework asks whether platform and schedule conditions permit contribution. The study has not measured attitudes, observed device failures or recorded participation outside the forum.

■ **Source B: response or review record**

Draft analysis: “Half the members are not interested in the club. The device answers are excuses. People from the same background behave the same way. Replacing the platform will definitely make all 24 members participate.”

A proposed follow-up would offer a teacher-approved paper response route alongside the forum for one further week. Participation would mean making at least one planning contribution by either route. The study must record which route is used and keep the new definition separate from the first-week measure.

■ **Worked example: separate a measured behaviour from an inferred motive**



Known: 12 of 24 invited members posted. Why does this not establish disinterest? Posting is the measured action; interest was not measured. Seven access reports give a reason to investigate access, not proof that the platform is the only cause. A broader participation definition may capture paper contributions, but its result is not the same measure as first-week posting.

2 Practice

2.1 Define paradigm in the context of this study. [2]

2.2 Calculate the proportion of invited members who posted, and state exactly what it measures. [2]

2.3 Explain THREE weaknesses in the claim that nonposters lack interest. [3]

2.4 Explain how the follow-up changes operationalisation and why a direct first-week comparison needs care. [3]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Evaluate the draft analysis using both proposed frameworks and the recorded evidence. [6]

3.2 Write an 80–110-word research note replacing the draft analysis with a fair interpretation and a follow-up. [8]