Solutions

Marking: **M1** a correct method, **A1** the correct answer, **B1** an independent mark.

Each answer shows the steps, then the **result**.

2.1

names a population, e.g. Year 12 boarding students in one school; names one aspect that can be studied, e.g. how they experience stress in the week before mock exams

2.2

an experiment; the question asks about the effect of one variable (noise) on another (problems solved), so the IV must be changed and other variables controlled; it gives numbers that can be compared between conditions / it can show cause

2.3

purposive sampling (snowball also accepted with reasons); the study needs people with a particular experience: international, first year, in Ningbo; a limit: the people chosen through one office may be more outgoing, so include students from several courses / countries

2.4

informed consent from the students (and parents if the school requires it), with the aim and the topic explained; the right to withdraw at any time, including their data; protection from harm: a gentle interview guide, stop if upset, information about the school counsellor; confidentiality: no names, recordings stored securely and deleted after analysis

2.5

friends may give answers they think the researcher wants (participant bias) / are similar to each other, so findings may not transfer; improvement: recruit through a teacher or notice, from several classes, people the researcher does not know well

3.1

(a) focused and studiable, e.g. “How do Year 12 students at one international school in Shanghai whose parents live abroad use social media to stay close to their families?”

(b) semi-structured interviews (or another justified method); the question is about experience and meaning, so rich, detailed data are needed; follow-up questions let students explain how and why they use each app; a questionnaire would give counts but miss feelings

(c) purposive sample of, e.g., six to eight students whose parents live abroad, recruited through the school counsellor; informed consent, right to withdraw, no names; an interview guide with open questions, about 20 to 30 minutes, recorded; transcripts coded for themes by two researchers

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(d) award up to [5]: a clear limitation linked to bias, e.g. researcher bias: the researcher's own experience of living away from family may shape the questions and the themes found; reduction: a pilot interview, an interview guide checked by a teacher, and a second researcher coding the transcripts; or participant bias: students may present their family relationships positively; reduce with rapport, confidentiality and non-judgemental questions

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