3.1 Inquiry method and source evaluation

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 30 marks**

KEY WORDS inquiry question • source evaluation • origin • purpose • limitation

Objective

Prepare for inquiry in the new course: build a focused **inquiry question**, choose and **evaluate sources**, and plan an investigation that uses the four concepts.

You must be able to:

- write a focused inquiry question that uses a concept
- choose a mix of primary and secondary sources
- evaluate a source's origin, purpose, value and limitations
- plan research that respects participants
- reflect on the limits of the evidence

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

A focused question

Too wide: "How has religion changed?" *Focused*: "How has the move to online services since 2020 changed **identity** and **belonging** in [a named] church community?" It names a **case**, a **time**, and a **concept**.

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Evaluating a source

ask	example: a church's own report on online attendance
origin	written by the church leadership, 2023
purpose	to inform members and show the church is doing well
value	direct numbers on attendance; insider knowledge
limitation	may present results positively; counts "views", not real participation

Plan

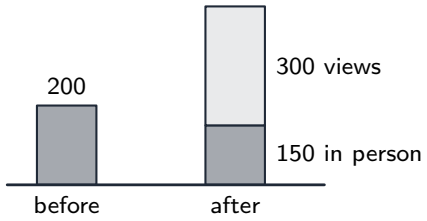
Question → concept(s) → sources (primary: interviews, observation, the community's materials; secondary: scholars, surveys) → ethics (consent, anonymity, respect) → analysis → conclusion with limits.

Worked example. Online "views" rose from 120 to 300 a week, while in-person attendance fell from 200 to 150. Total contacts = 450, up 50 % from 320, but a "view" may be a few seconds, so the true change in participation is unclear.

2 Practice

2.1 State **three** parts of a well-focused inquiry question. [2]

2.2 Before: 200 in person and 0 online. After: 150 in person and 300 online "views". Calculate the percentage change in total contacts, and explain **one** problem with counting views. [3]



2.3 Evaluate the **origin** and **purpose** of a church's own report on its attendance. [4]

2.4 Plan an inquiry on online worship in **one** community, naming sources, ethics and **two** concepts. [6]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 *(Preparation inquiry.)* Write the plan and opening analysis for: "To what extent has online worship changed **belonging** in a religious community you can study?" [15]



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