Candidate 4 evidence

Instructions for candidates

This assignment is worth a maximum of 30 marks. Your report should be between 800 and 1,200 words long, excluding references, footnotes, and appendices. You must provide the word count of your completed report, excluding references, footnotes, and appendices. Your report is marked by SQA. If the word count exceeds the maximum by 10%, a penalty will be applied.

Please note that you are not permitted to use the two sociological studies which are a mandatory part of the National 5 Sociology course: – Rosenthal R. and Jacobson L. 1968. Pygmalion in the classroom. New York: Holt. Rinehart and Winston – Kingdon G. and Cassen R. 2007. Understanding low achievement in English schools. London School of Economics.

A Choosing and describing a topic that is of interest to sociologists – maximum of 2 marks available.

Rape is social issue as it has an impact on people and no person needs to experience it, the statistic of rape is still high, and it interests Sociologists. Rape is an act where an individual didn't agree to have sex. It is a form of assault. The gender that experiences rape and sexual assault the most are women. For example, Rape Crisis England and Wales have stated that 1 in 4 women have been assaulted and raped since they have turned 16. The Scottish Government Website, 2024 have stated that the police arrested 14,602 in 2022/23 to 14,484 in 2023-2024 due to sexual assault.

B Describing basic differences between sociological and common-sense explanations of human social behaviour – maximum of 6 marks available.

Common Sense is opinion-based or hearsay. It comes from family, media and peers. The common-sense view on this topic is that women are asked to be raped due to the revealing clothes they wear and because of them being drunk.

To illustrate the Common-Sense view, a contemporary example is (Thirteen Reasons Why), where the character Bryce Walker says that "girls who drink ask for it and girls' clothing means they are up for anything".

Another contemporary example is (The Accused, 1988). In this film, many men in the bar blame Sarah Tobias for being drunk and wearing revealing clothes. They passed statements saying, "she was drunk and was dancing sexually, and she was asking for it." When people watch this, they normalise the idea that it is okay to pass out comments to girls.

Sociologists disagree with the above common-sense view because their understanding is based on evidence and statistics. In contrast Sociologists don't believe that women get raped due to the clothes they're wearing, as men get raped, and it isn't only women. (The Criminal Injuries helpline, December 2023) reports that 275,000 men get raped, which is 1.2%, which suggests that rape doesn't happen due to women's clothing and drinking habits.

C Using investigation skills to find appropriate sources of information – maximum of 2 marks available.

Cambridge Rape Crisis
https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwismezOr-yQAxV5REEAHfiyAW8QFnoECCAQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fcambridgerapecrisis.org.uk%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2FSources-for-website-stats-May-2023.pdf&usg=AOvVaw3qli2714GShVzsXKJSWenT&opi=89978449 [Accessed: 8 December 2025]
Criminal justice helpline: https://criminalinjurieshelpline.co.uk/blog/male-rape-statistics-in-the-uk-and-there-implications/ [Accessed: 17 November 2025]
Rape Crisis England and Wales
https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwit7tL08OeQAxUvWEEAHQggPeQQFnoECBsQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Frapecrisis.org.uk%2Fget-informed%2Fstatistics-sexual-violence%2F&usg=AOvVaw0ucbkZIjrUarlFcrAQwxXg&opi=89978449 [Accessed: 26 November 2025]

Scottish Police Authority, 2025
https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=3ebce05db82d997c1f420f097137197cafea11c73c923c34f040d38dd8e7e425Jm1tdHM9MTc2NTc1NjgwMA&ptn=3&ver=2&hsh=4&fclid=1124912d-d42e-6849-35ef-8441d5a869d7&psq=scottish+police+authority+March+2025+rape+report&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc3BhLnBvbGljZS51ay9wdWJsaWNhdGlvbi1saWJyYXJ5L2RlZXAtZGl2ZS1hbmFseXNpcy1vZi1yYXBlLXNleHVhbC1jcmltZS0xOS1tYXJjaC0yMDI1Lw [Accessed: 10 December 2025]
Scottish Government Website, 2024
https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwj7p9H28eeQAxVDUkEAHSGAH6QQFnoECDMQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.scot%2Fpublications%2Frecorded-crime-scotland-2023-24%2Fpages%2F6%2F&usg=AOvVaw3rwmTdatZkU2xJCYKPud5V&opi=89978449
[Accessed:1 December 2025]

D Organising and interpreting information in sociology – maximum of **10** marks available.

Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre (May, 2023)
This research study aimed to show the yearly number of raped people. The researchers found that 1/30 women and 1/6 children experience sexual violence every year, which is quite a large number. 86% women were sexually harassed in a public space, and 9 in 10 young girls in schools were being called sexist names. Men also experience sexual violence; however, their experience rate is lower than that of women (1/18). 4 in 5 raped men don't report it to the police.

These findings are important as a large proportion of people in the UK are affected, specifically children and women being disadvantaged. The findings show evidence of gender differential treatment. It is a concern because a large portion of the population is still suffering. There is a high rate of under-reporting, which can eventually lead to misleading decisions, shame, and mistrust of the justice system. The findings suggest that more effective strategies to prevent rapes are needed. There should be organisations that support the victims and strongly encourage the reporting of rapes to police stations.

Scottish Police Authority (March, 2025)
This study aimed to provide statistical patterns about rape and sexual crimes in Scotland and highlight the victim-centred projects. Researchers found that there is an increase in rape cases in 2024 compared to 2023, since 2,056 crimes were reported. Over 50% of these cases were domestic. About 70% cases (1,444) were reported by women (which is a 41.8% increase of the cases reported in 2019/2020); men reported 61 cases; and 14.7% cases were of children (302). It is evident from these findings that children and women are vulnerable communities.

All these findings are important because they show an increasing trend of rape cases. This is a serious concern because either the rape rate is increasing or victims are reporting more than ever. Women and children being disadvantaged is evidence of differential treatment. The report suggests that the Scottish police are focusing on forensic practices and trauma-informed policies that can support the victims for their well-being and can encourage people to report sexual crimes.

E Communicating sociologically informed views – maximum of 10 marks available.

It is clear from both sociological studies that the issue is still relevant today, as rape cases are still high. The trends are that men don't report rape cases as they feel embarrassed or they aren't confident enough to talk to someone about it. Research findings didn't consider men getting raped and the statistics. To understand this topic better, future studies should include clear statistics of men being raped. The stigma of under-reporting is also problematic because it creates difficulty in policy responses and leaves the survivor unsupported.

Feminist theory can be explained in terms of rape as an act of power and control. It challenges the notion of rape as a sexual act, highlighting its function as a form of male dominance and patriarchy. Radical feminists believe that criminal justice systems are male-dominated (67% are male officers in Scotland). Radical feminists are also interested in how men use their strength to overpower women and make it hard for women to refuse men.

Liberal feminists believe that men are more likely to be prosecuted for their violent crimes. According to Anne Oakley, canalisation channels children towards appropriate toys. This means that boys in childhood are given toys like boxing figures, tools, guns, and swords, so that they can learn aggression, while girls are given kitchen sets, making them learn that they are only for household tasks. This tells us that it is no surprise that males are prosecuted due to being violent. Expectations show that males are physically stronger, aren't meant to show any sign of weakness. This might make men hesitate to report assault or rape due to thinking they should 'man-up'.

The evidence has refuted the common-sense view that women are raped because they drink and wear revealing clothes. This is not right, as rape can happen for any reason. If it were about clothes, why are men and children the victims? There is evidence of labelling; the person who has committed this crime will now have a master status as a rapist. They won't be able to find jobs due to the master status, and their social lives will be affected. They will also end up losing people around them, making them lonely. The government should bring changes so that the raped and sexually abused are heard. The government has come up with a strategy for tackling this called Violence Against Women and Girls. This includes teachers to tackling misogyny in the classroom with a view to reducing violence. Young people should know how to report rape cases anonymously. They should learn about consent and respect. Abused men can't open up due to being judged. Usually, it is observed that the victim gets blamed instead of the offender, and most of the offenders do not get punished, as the victims do not report properly. The police should have courses on labelling, as they only focus on a certain group.