

Candidate 3 evidence

Word count: 932

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.

The topic that I have decided on is football hooliganism, specifically in the French city of Marseille.

This is of interest to sociologists due to the complexity of the city's cultures and the amount of football hooliganism that the city is infamous for. Marseille is one of France's most populated countries with an overall population of around 1.5 million. Marseille is known for being very ethnically diverse, and it is also known for having very high levels of poverty and crime.

Another reason why this topic is of interest to sociologists is because football hooligans are a subculture. This subculture can be identified by the fact that at football matches they can often be seen fighting, singing or letting off flares or "pyro", which is short for pyrotechnics.

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

A common sense view of this topic would be that football hooligans are causing trouble because they are angry and unintelligent people. Many people with a common sense view assume that they are thugs that don't actually care about the football and just want to cause violence.

An example of this behaviour is when around 200 Marseille fans broke into the Marseille football stadium in 2021. This caused the football match on that day (Marseille vs Rennes) to be postponed.

Italian restaurant smashed up by "mindless idiots" after euros final: headline from the "Independent"

This shows that there are many cases of football hooligans being violent and destructive without much reasoning and that the media picks up on these.

Common sense explanations are based off what the media states or the label that society gives hooligans whereas sociological explanations are focused on the reasons and the theories behind the violence.

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

"Social bonding key cause of football violence"

22 June 2018

Oxford University

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2018-06-22-social-bonding-key-cause-football-violence>

"Violent Marseille ultras bring more shame upon French football"

Adam White and Eric Devlin

1 February 2021

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2021/feb/01/violent-marseille-ultras-bring-more-shame-upon-french-football>

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

Source 1

One finding shows that the football hooligans are only violent and aggressive when at football games, they are mostly normal people who live normal lives.

This shows that football hooligans for the most part are not dysfunctional people and are only violent in isolated incidents.

The second finding shows that humans have a need to be part of a group and to fight against other groups.

This shows that football hooliganism is a form of ancient tribal psychology. In the past this tribal psychology would help compete against other tribes for food or territory.

One more finding shows that the violence that occurs is due to hooligans “defending” other members of their group.

This shows how prevalent the tribal psychology is as the hooligans believe they must use violence to protect members of their group or tribe.

Source 2

The first finding shows that much of the violence in Marseille is fuelled by anger towards the owners of the club who have recently made some controversial decisions in relation to the structure of the club.

This shows that the football hooligans do actually care about their club and are not afraid to take action to try to force change.

The second finding shows that often violence is targeted towards police who are often present at Marseille football games.

This shows that football hooliganism is a very difficult problem to deal with as using force (police) to combat it has shown to be ineffective.

The third finding shows that Marseille “ultras” have been causing trouble for a substantial amount of time.

This shows that football hooliganism is a deeply engrained part of the culture of the city and is not likely to go away any time soon.

E Communicating sociologically informed views maximum of 10 marks available.

Both sources show that from a sociological point of view, football hooligans are normal people in their day to day lives but when they attend football games they can be violent towards rival fans and the police alike. There are also many cases of hooligans vandalising stadiums. The reason for this violence and destruction is usually because it is a big part of football culture but sometimes because they want to cause change in their club. Football hooliganism is such big thing due to the fact that humans naturally want to be part of a group and to "battle" against other groups. This called tribe psychology and is a primal need that all humans crave.

One sociological theory that can be used to explain this topic is labelling theory. This states that when society labels someone or a group as criminal or deviant, the person or group begins acting that way. This links to my findings as society and the media label football hooligans as "mindless idiots". Whereas football hooligans are mostly normal people who live normal lives outside of football.

This theory also states that nothing is truly criminal, as the people who make these laws and rules are courts or the police. This is important as the act of groups being violent towards other groups is natural and in history, before police and courts this behaviour would have been integral to human life.

In conclusion, the evidence I have gathered challenges the common sense view. This is because the evidence gathered shows that hooligans do care about the football and their club, contrary to the common sense view. This can be proved as there are many cases of "ultras" protesting against their club owners to try to force positive change in the club.

Also, the common sense view states that football hooligans are generally angry and unintelligent people. This can be disproved as studies show that hooligans are mostly regular people who have a passion for football and feel the need to follow tribal psychology.