

# Sampling in Practice



## Task focus

A sociologist wants to investigate student attitudes towards homework in a sixth form college. The full population is 30 students. Your task is to use the population data below to produce a range of different samples.

For each task, you must:

- identify which students are selected
- explain how the sample was chosen

## Population data

Student	Gender	Year	Subject	Travel
1	Female	12	Sociology	Bus
2	Male	12	Psychology	Walk
3	Female	13	Sociology	Car
4	Male	12	Criminology	Bus
5	Female	12	Psychology	Walk
6	Male	13	Sociology	Train
7	Female	12	Criminology	Bus
8	Male	13	Psychology	Car
9	Female	13	Sociology	Walk
10	Male	12	Criminology	Bus
11	Female	12	Psychology	Train
12	Male	13	Sociology	Walk
13	Female	12	Criminology	Car
14	Male	12	Psychology	Bus

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## Population data (cont)

Student	Gender	Year	Subject	Travel
15	Female	13	Sociology	Train
16	Male	12	Criminology	Walk
17	Female	13	Psychology	Bus
18	Male	13	Sociology	Car
19	Female	12	Criminology	Walk
20	Male	12	Psychology	Train
21	Female	13	Sociology	Bus
22	Male	13	Criminology	Walk
23	Female	12	Psychology	Car
24	Male	12	Sociology	Bus
25	Female	13	Criminology	Train
26	Male	13	Psychology	Walk
27	Female	12	Sociology	Bus
28	Male	12	Criminology	Car
29	Female	13	Psychology	Walk
30	Male	13	Sociology	Train

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## Task 1: Simple random sample

Select 6 students at random from the population.

My simple random sample:

How I selected them:

## Task 2: Systematic sample

Start at Student 2 and then select every 5th student.

My systematic sample:

How I selected them:

## Task 3: Stratified sample

Create a sample of 6 based on year group.

My stratified sample:

Why this is stratified:

## Task 4: Quota sample

Create a sample of 6 based on gender.

My quota sample:

Why this is a quota sample:

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## Task 5: Opportunity sample

Imagine you are standing near the college entrance at 8:40am and interview the first 6 students you meet.

Use these students:

2, 4, 5, 7, 11, 14

My opportunity sample:

Why this is opportunity sampling:

## Task 6: Snowball sample

A researcher begins with Student 3. Each participant recommends one more student.

Use this chain:

3 → 9 → 15 → 21 → 30 → 12

My snowball sample:

Why this is snowball sampling:

