

**SOCIOLOGY (1990)  
COURSEWORK ASSESSMENT FORM  
GCSE EXAMINATIONS 2003**



**EXAMPLE 2**

Centre Number		Centre Name	
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Candidate Number		Candidate Name	
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ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVE	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	LEVEL 5	LEVEL 6	COMMENTS
<b>Objective 1:1</b> Social Structures, Processes, Concepts and Issues	3	4	5	6	
<b>Objective 1:2</b> Sociological Methodology and Research Strategies	2	4	4	6	
<b>ASSESSMENT TOTAL</b>					
	<b>LEVEL</b>	<b>MARK</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>		

**GCSE Sociology coursework**

**ON**

# **MUSIC AND VIOLENCE**

**UNIT 10**  
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## Introduction to GCSE Sociology Coursework

The area that I intend to study for my coursework is violence from music.

I am interested in this area because now days there are different types of music. But there is still some kind of music, which inspire ordinary peoples into crime and violence. Singers are using the base of music to influence people to become a criminal and get involved in violence in different ways.

Other research in this area includes mental disturbance for children and different crimes committed via the influence of music.

The sociological reasons why this area is important are the popularity of this kind of music is getting increased in our society nowadays which might lead us into difficult situation later on.

The hypothesis of my study is Heavy metal and some black music inspires people into violence and crime more than any other music.

The questions I want to find out about in my study are

1. How violence and crime is depicted in music?
2. How many factual articles are there which are linked with this field?
3. How the music affects children?

I intend to carry out my research by surfing in the net and researching from facts in some newspapers, books and magazines etc.

Potential problems are there might be not many recorded crimes and violence articles in books and newspapers.

### Context:

The types of music which fall into this category are Heavy metal, rap and rock music. Heavy metal music has been a source of criticism even since its introduction to the society. Its explicit lyrics and harsh sound has made it the target of blame for behavioural and psychological problems according to many psychologists and sociologists. This problem has been a greater concern for most of the parents and for today's social life as it's reported by lots of doctors and psychologists that some of the new generation music brings the negative nature in the youths. There are other social concerns about the negative effects that are possible by listening to Heavy Metal and some rap music that contains aggressive lyrics and harsh music e.g. Eminem, Kid rock, Dr.dre, Korn, Marilyn Manson etc. Most of the teenager is attracted towards this kind of alternative, Heavy metal music.

The next matter of concern in rock music as well, during the past four decades, rock music lyrics have become increasingly explicit. And now the popularity of explicit rock music and explicit lyrics in rap music particularly with reference to drugs, sex, violence and moreover sexual violence has a great impact on the adolescent of the society. Recent study done by the American Academy of Paediatrics) shows that Heavy Metal and Rap lyrics have dragged every parents greatest concern on their children due to explicit lyrics and violent lyrics in music. As the result of the survey over took by the AAP showed that many teenagers who were influenced by these kind of music ended up with pregnancy, drug use, AIDS and other sexual transmitted disease, Injuries, homicide and suicide.

They even conducted a survey, which showed that the popularity of Heavy metal, rock and Rap music are increasingly growing more than ever before. According to one of the study they came to know that teens listened to music as average of 40 hrs per week.

Another recent report by Kevin J. Took and David S. Weiss (sociologists) in the journal adolescent (1994) is quite relevant about teenagers' behaviour. They studied the relationships between listening to heavy metal, rock and rap music and youths "Psychological Turmoil". They chose children from 12-18 years of age, equally divided in sexes. As a result they found out that those who had many psychological and behavioural problems preferred heavy metal, rock music and they even analysed that as a result they had poorer school grades, more behavioural problems in school, more sexual activity, drug and alcohol use and arrests as well. The relationship was stronger for males than female. The overall conclusion of its study figures out that the music do causes the behavioural and psychological problems to some extent. However the another survey by them showed that most of the students have behavioural problems before they started listening to Heavy metal and rap music but generally there is a 90% chance of troubled students getting in touch with the violence categorised music. So, the basis of their study is that there is a possibility that music could promote problems in already troubled teenagers.

Radcoy and Boyle (sociologists in 1997) conducted a research on the topic 'Music and violence' and came to the conclusion that there is no question that songs with themes such as sociological reform, religion or even love mean something to its listeners, therefore eliciting the effective response from the audiences. They showed that the categorised topic of music is not directly the cause of behaviour and psychological problems but in fact the troubled teens are attracted into heavy metal, rock or rap music which influences their behaviour which creates violence present in them.

We can all acknowledge that music really does affect a person's emotion, moods and their feelings and thoughts. But there is some music which promotes explicit behaviour, health messages and especially when it reaches a vulnerable audience. A study by Ballard and Coates (1995) examined the relationship between heavy metal, rap songs and anger, depression, self-esteem, anxiety and suicidal feelings. Their study result showed that when people are presented with violence inspiring music, they respond more when there is already a high level of violence in the environment to back them up.

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The U.S. Department of education figured that a large percentage of young women and girls have been subjected to a pattern of overt sexual hostility accompanied by the repeated use of obscene or foul language. Though, at the same time the listeners and fans of heavy metal, rap music has confessed that the music tends to help them deal with their personal problems. But the meaning extracted from the lyrics and the emotional responses elicited as much attention has been directed to the effects of the music on its listeners are definitely subjective as they influence teenagers to do unacceptable things and to think objectionable thoughts.

I think the study on this topic should be increased because the relationship between violence music and aggression was examined because aggressive behaviour is a growing problem in our society today, especially amongst young adults and teenagers. There is a deeper chance of these kind of behavioural actions from teens could seriously bring impact on the society.

**Methods:**

To support my hypothesis I've going to give out 20 questionnaire according to 50:50 gender split. I've done the equal division because I need to prove as my aim that this kind of music are getting popular day by day in today's society. As I've chosen the age range 16-19, I don't have to ask them question about their age. I've put forward some very vital questions related to my topic. For e.g. their gender, type of music they listen to, why do they think some music are violent etc. To make it representative and unbiased after I got the results I'm going to analyse the data by type of music they listen to and produce a graph on that topic and on the other hand I'll produce a graph showing that how many people thinks that some of the new generation music is violent. In the category 'choice of music', I'm going to compare in between the data produced on the graph between male and female to prove that more of the males are attracted into hardcore/alterative and Rock

**Results:**

I've set my questionnaire survey and I've found that 60% of the people I surveyed think that some music are excessively violent, While setting the question I left a space to fill up their comments on 'why do they think some music is violent?' and they've got many comments on the effect of music on society and the children because of it's explicit lyrics and very loud, harsh music. Some of the people had the knowledge of some incidents dealing with 'music and violence' such as: Two teenagers killed themselves after getting influenced by 'Marylyn Manson's lyrics.

25% of the people on my survey responded on that question as 'don't know' and 15% responded on the same answer as 'No'.

According to the graphs that I've come up with clearly shows that males are more interested in rock and alternative/hardcore music as the ratio for men in music type rock is 5:1 and in the type of music 'hardcore/alternative the ratio is 5:0. So, the result is clear that most of the violent music are popular amongst male teenagers. So, I think that their choice of music which influences them to more social violence like Rape and gangsters' fight etc in compare of females. In education field as well in today's society female seems more ahead therefore I think in this case there might be some effect of the music they listen to which leads them to poorer grades than females and lower thinking capacity. Therefore the total percentage after comparison between males and females in the categorised music rock and hardcore/alternative is 50% male and 5% female which is

# MUSIC VIOLENCE

PREVIOUS

Sex: male  female

Which age group do you fall into?

16-20  21-25  26-35

31-35  36/over

What kind of music do you listen to?

Hip-hop/R 'n B  Rock/Pop  Alternative   
Other

Does the music you listen to inspire you?

Yes  no  neutral

If yes, how?

*Song words and the music.*

Do you think some music is violent?

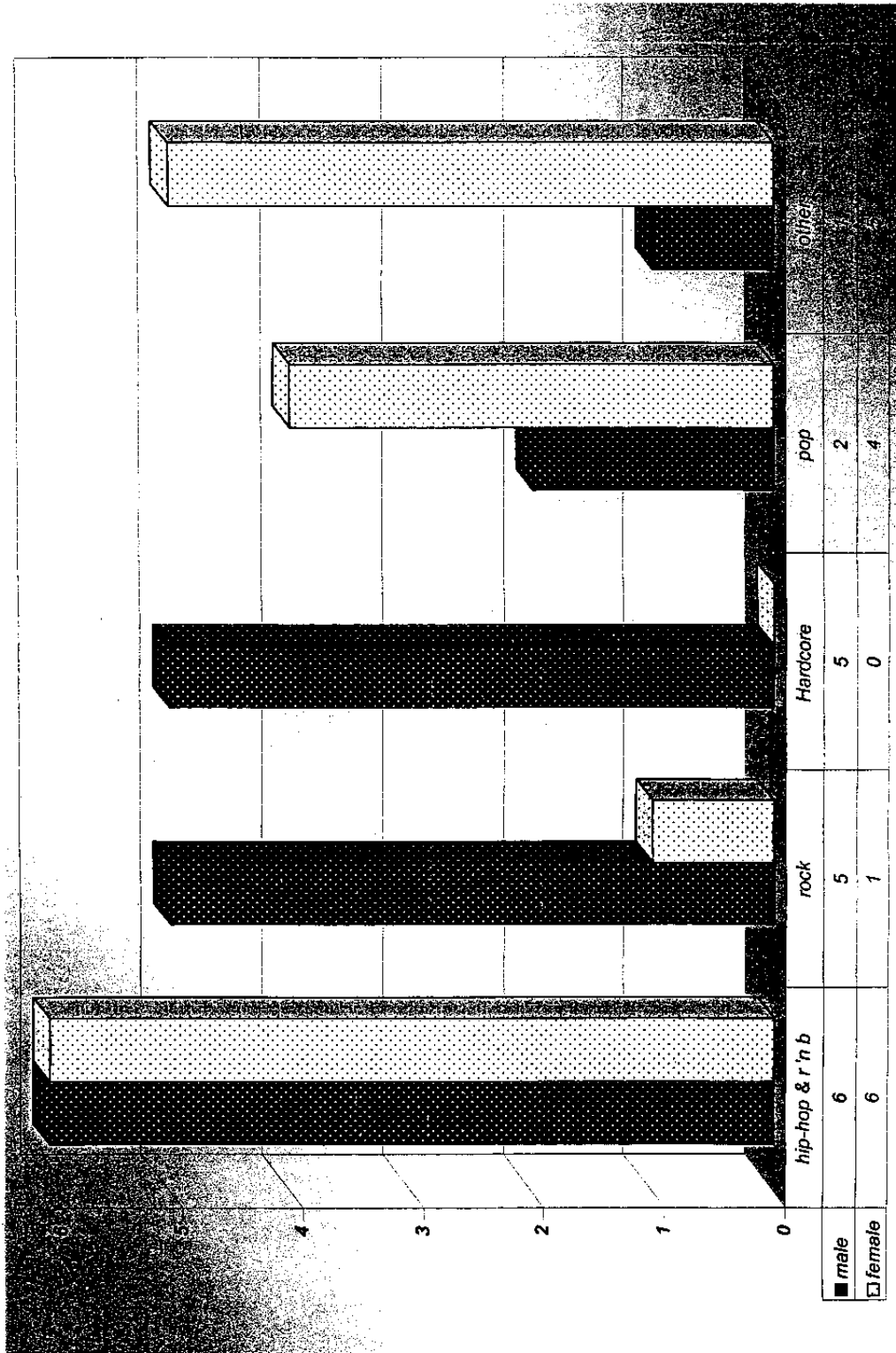
Yes  no

don't know

Thanks for your time....

Baudha Gurung

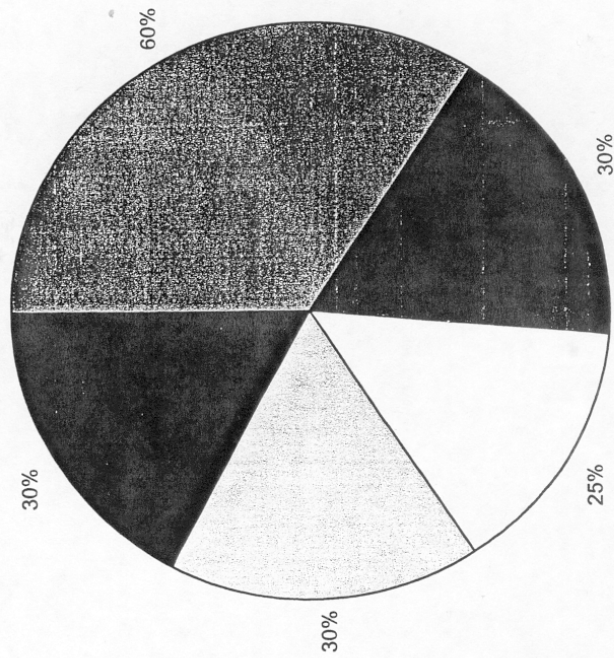
Graph to show the total number of people's choice by music.





Pie chart to show  
Total % of people interested in the type of music

■ hip-hop & r'n b ■ rock □ Hardcore □ pop ■ other



### Conclusion:

According to my hypothesis It was my own personal view that the new generation music are upcoming with more explicit lyrics and violence influencing videos as well There fore my aim was to prove that the music has affect on the society of today and especially the young kids. After I've come up with my results I agree with my hypothesis 100%.Because more than 60 percent of people in my survey placed their interest in Hip Hop and Rock, alternative, rap music which I confessed in my hypothesis that they contains anti-society, anti-Christ kind of lyrics and comes under a violent music category.

### Analysis:

According to my hypothesis I wanted to prove that younger peoples aged 14 to 19 are attracted to the new generations music choice Raps , rock music, alternative with loud and harsh sound and hip-hop songs with extensive amount of explicit lyrics. In some answers in my questionnaire peoples admitted that Rap songs contains and rock and alternative music helps spreads violent lyrics in the society like kill, sex, blood and drugs. Even they know that the music is not suitable in a society some people still listen to it. Though there are a special mark 'Parental advisory' on those music which contains explicit lyrics but still there is no guarantee that the young children of the society are safe. Some lyrics which don't contain any swear words but it is a violent word or inappropriate in a general society. Which makes the explicit lemmatisation hard to configure. In the question 'does the music you listen to inspires you?' Almost 60% answer that music helps them to cope with their personal problems, helps them create new ideas in some point of view. Some of the people answered that the music helps them think and relax that might be because I think if you get committed to a particular music you always like to listen to that category of music thats based on experience by myself. Some of them had really affecting things to say like music makes them realise that you can be whatever you want to be, or in other words music gives you confidence. As according to my hypothesis most of the teen boys chose alternative, rock and hip-hop music as their choice of music in my questionnaire where as in the case of gals almost 80% preferred pop and other music more that rock, alternative music. Almost 80% admitted that some of the music are violent for society and young children. Some of them commented that the lyrics affects on the behaviour and psychology of a normal person if the music is loud, repeated and harsh. And almost everyone commented that the explicit use of lyrics has a very negative effect on society. ***For a proof I've displayed my all questionnaire I used to survey my hypothesis.***

### **Evaluation:**

My main idea of choosing the subject was because there are not as many researches done on this criteria before. I had bit of problem with that because I had to survey for the result on my own without any help from a sociological point of view or comparison between any previously done researches. So, to prove my hypothesis I had to place a questionnaire survey, which helped me to find out a more specific and valid result on the topic 'Music and Violence'. I knew that I'm not going to find out many research results on the net or nor in many books which will help me prove my aim on my point of view as I've already mentioned that this topic seems to known as a recent sociological problem from the sociology point of view. While I took the survey some people seemed to neglect this topic in my questionnaire, as they didn't responded to the question, 'Do you think some music is violent?' Which was a negative answer to my hypothesis. But still in 20 peoples 60% thought that there are some music containing inappropriate words and loud beats and harsh music which is violent in some point of view. Some questions like 'Does the music you listen to inspires you?' seemed to have no response on it either, where as that question was really vital in my questionnaire as it leads the person to think that there are violent music but the result I found out after analysing the whole survey was enough for me to prove my hypothesis. But those who responded on that question had a very good comments like, it helps them deal with their problems, gives musical knowledge etc. My first designed questionnaire which is marked as previous) contained an age question which I thought was not very useful or appropriate because many people seemed quiet hesitated therefore on my second survey I did the questionnaire on 50/50 gender split basis and the age group was teenagers aged 16-19. The second question in my final designed questionnaire 'what kind of music do you listen to?' came out very handy because according to my hypothesis I wanted to prove that the popularity of Alternative, hip-hop, rap songs are increasing day by day and my result clearly shows that many of the teenagers have their interest in that generation of music.

I think my questions were unbiased because there was options in for different answers, if I had just 'yes' or 'no' as options some people might not clearly know about the topic. So, putting all the thoughts in concern I designed my second questionnaire. I didn't even give out any ideas while the peoples were filling up the questionnaire, as I wanted their personal view on the questions. I have the thought that I had less time for my course work. Because I had bit of difficulty setting the questionnaire on a general point of view. But the after the correction on the first designed questionnaire I came up with more unbiased and valid questions in second questionnaire.

If I was to do my survey again I would do a interview because I think that will be more reliable and I would also interview the people interested in violent music.

### **Bibliography:**

To support my coursework my took help from different internet sites they are:

[www.soncinet.com](http://www.soncinet.com)    [www.askjeeves.com](http://www.askjeeves.com)  
[www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com)        [www.mtv.com](http://www.mtv.com)

