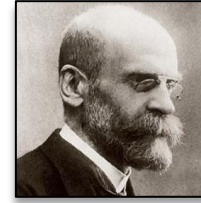A self-completion questionnaire is a form of social survey where respondents answer a **list of standardised questions** without a research present

Preferred by **positivists** due to the ability to code data and distribute to large numbers of respondents

Depending on the type of questions asked – **open, closed** or a **mixture**, it can produce either **quantitative or qualitative data**

1) Do you support the governments handling of the COVID-19 Crisis? Yes/No
2) Please expand on the reasons for your answer
_____

The **standardised nature** of questions gives these questionnaires **higher reliability** than unstructured methods – they can be repeated

As they are self-completion – no researcher is present when the respondent complete the questionnaire. This can negatively impact on the **response rate** and the **validity** of the research – we are not sure who is completing them

The most recent census was conducted in 2011 – the next in 2021

However, questions may be misleading or difficult to understand – as there is no researcher, this cannot be addressed – which may lead to false responses

An example of a self-completion questionnaire in social research is the **census.** Conducted every 10 years, it has a high response rate due to the **legal requirement** to complete it

Sociological Research Methods