**Some guidance notes for the completion of formative/summative assessment 1**

**1 Identify a research question (100 words)**

* Outline a clearly stated research question. It should be :
* Concise – (single sentence with a question mark at the end)
* Can be understood by a non-expert

**2 Locate that research within a field of study (150 words)**

* Explain where your work is located (ie Consumer behaviour studies, nursing studies, or more broadly medical sociology, industrial economics etc.) and explain the tradition (*This work is located within housing studies, a contested field of study based upon an interdisciplinary understanding of the relationship between the production, consumption, allocation and experience of dwellings. Traditionally it has been influenced by debates in economics, public policy, sociology, social administration and geography*).
* Help the non-expert locate your work.
* Identify whether there is a well-established or an emerging tradition of research in this field.
* Explain whether your research question is central or peripheral to extant debates.

**3 Identify and explain an epistemological perspective used in the social sciences (1) (150 words)**

* Concise definition of an epistemological perspective (such as positivism, critical realism, social constructionism, post structuralism etc).
* Non-technical and concise definition of the perspective.
* Reference key authors where appropriate

**4 Identify and explain an epistemological perspective used in the social sciences (2) (150 words)**

* Concise definition of an epistemological perspective (such as positivism, critical realism, social constructionism, post structuralism etc).
* Non-technical and concise definition of the perspective.
* Reference key authors where appropriate

**5 Demonstrate how perspective ( 1) has been used in your field (150 words)**

* Which authors in your field have used one of the perspectives above?. Reference the work and explain what the research was about and what makes it positivist, post-structuralist etc.

**6 Demonstrate how perspective (2) has been used in your field (150 words)**

* Which authors in your field have used one of the perspectives above?. Reference the work and explain what the research was about and what makes it positivist, post-structuralist etc.

**7 Select and justify an epistemological framework for your research question (150 words)**

* You may decide to select one of the two perspectives discussed, both, or neither. Explain in concise terms why you have made your selection demonstrating that there is an appropriate degree of fit between the epistemology chosen and the type of research question being asked (ie positivism for a piece of research which aims to identify a causal relationship between indicators or constructionism for a piece of research which aims to explain the way in which an event or phenomenon is understood by a group of actors in one place and time.