

# **CAPE IA CARIBBEAN STUDIES**

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The SBA has seven chapters as follows:

Chap. 1 – Introduction

Chap. 2 – Literature Review

Chap. 3 – Data Collection sources

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Chap. 5 – Interpretation of findings

Chap. 6 – Discussion of findings

Chap. 7 – Conclusions, Limitations,  
Recommendations

# Choosing a topic

- Choose a theme from the list in the syllabus – ensure that you are familiar with the theme.
- Choose a theme that interests you, something that you would be interested in studying.
- Choose a sub theme from your theme and develop a problem statement.
- DO NOT develop a problem statement that is too broad. Study a village rather than a country.

Here is an example:

THEME

*CRIME*

SUB THEME

*EFFECTS OF CRIME*

PROBLEM STATEMENT

*“A survey of the effects of crime on the residents of Mala village, St. Vincent.”*

## YOU CAN ALSO DEVELOP A HYPOTHESIS

A hypothesis is a statement which suggests the possible answer to your problem statement

FOR EXAMPLE:

**Problem Statement** - *"A survey of the effects of crime on the residents of Mala village, St. Vincent."*

**Hypothesis** – *"Crime has negative effects on the residents of Mala village, St. Vincent."*

## DEVELOP RESEARCH QUESTIONS

You should develop research questions to guide your research. These help to give focus to your project.

### EXAMPLE

*"A survey of the effects of crime on the residents of Mala village, St. Vincent."*

### **Research Questions**

1. What kinds of crime are committed in Mala Village?
2. Who Commits crime in Mala village?
3. What effects do these crimes have on residents?
4. Who are mostly affected by the crimes committed?
5. What are some solutions to the crime problem in Mala village?

# Chapter 1 – Introduction

The introduction has four main parts:

- Relevance of topic
- Problem statement
- Educational value
- Definition of technical terms

You can choose to write the introduction in paragraphs, with each paragraph highlighting each of the parts above or you can use headings to separate each part.

## INTRODUCTION OUTLINE FOR

*"A survey of the effects of crime on the residents of Mala village, St. Vincent."*

1. Relevance of topic  
write about one or two paragraphs. Talk about the relevance of the topic you have chosen to your society or community. How will it benefit? Basically you are saying why you are studying the topic.



## 2. The problem Statement

Write one paragraph. Include the problem statement, the hypothesis if there is one and the research questions. You should also give a geographical description of the location of your study area and its average population.

## 3. Educational value

Write about one paragraph. Here you are talking about who will benefit from your project, how will they benefit, what can the information be used for. Say how much educational value it has.

#### 4. Definition of technical terms

Simply make a list of key terms found in your topic and study that may need defining, that might be ambiguous or unclear to your reader. This can be completed when the study is completed since terms can show up throughout the study

#### EXAMPLE

*"A survey of the effects of crime on the residents of Mala village, St. Vincent."*

Crime – an illegal action punished by law

# Chapter 2 – Literature Review

At this stage you are looking to find out what other people have said about your topic in books, journals, articles etc. You should use 5 sources when writing your literature review.

Use your research questions as a guide as to what to look for when reading. You might not find a book on your village or exact topic but the book might be on the theme you have chosen.

For each article or book you should describe why the research was done, where the research was conducted. Compare your own research with existing research. Relate the information to your own topic/problem statement.

Pages 427 – 428 of your text book explains the purpose and gives an example of a literature review.

The literature review is technical and must not be taken lightly. The quality of your literature review affects the quality of your discussion later.

# **Chapter 3 – Data Collection Sources**

This chapter is broken down into sections. You can use paragraphs to discuss each section or headings. The sections are:

1. Research Design
2. Method of data collection
3. Sample selection
4. Collection of data
5. Analysis and presentation of data

- **Research Design**

State the type of research you are doing – applied or pure (most Caribbean studies projects are applied – they study a problem). Then state whether the research is qualitative or quantitative (once you are using statistically based data collection sources to gather data your study is quantitative). You should also state why these methods are appropriate for your use in your project. This should be about 1 paragraph.

- **Method of data collection**

State the method or methods of data collection that you are going to use for example questionnaires. Define what the methods are. State why the methods are appropriate for this study. State how many questions are in the questionnaire. State how many are closed – ended and how many are open – ended.

- ## Selection of Sample

State the approximate size of the population of the area, community or school you are studying. State the sampling method used to select the total population for the study example simple random sampling. Then give a brief definition to the sampling method chosen and how it is used. Describe how you went about choosing your sample using the method chosen. State the amount in your sample. Explain why the method chosen is best for your study.

- ## Collection of Data

State exactly when the study was conducted – month, year. Give the exact dates when the data was collected etc. State how long respondents were given to respond etc. Talk about problems experienced.



- Analysis and presentation of data

State how the data would be analysed and presented.

# Chapter 4 – Presentation of Findings

Here you need to display your results using illustrations like graphs, tables, charts and photographs. The methods used would depend of the type of study and data you are using. The illustrations must be described using text. They should be labelled properly.

- Use THREE different types of illustrations
- They should be well labelled
- Each should be described.

# Chapter 5 – Interpretation of Findings

This is where you explain your findings.

- Describe the trends and patterns, averages, ranges. State what the data you collected means and implies.
- Look for connections between questions
- Explain the results, include contradictions
- Give a summary of your interpretations in the last paragraph.

# Chapter 6 – Discussion of Findings

In order to write your discussion you must go back to your literature review.

- Compare your results with those presented in the literature review – look for similarities and differences in the patterns and trends of both studies.
- Try to account for any significant differences by comparing methodologies – research methods and sampling methods.

# **Chapter 7 – Conclusions/Limitations/Recom mendations**

- **Conclusions**

Summarise your results and restate their educational value. Put your results in the context of other research. Give your perspective on the problem.

- **Limitations**

Criticisms of your methodology. This assures the reader that you know the study's shortcomings. Refer to chapter 3 to see how the methods, instruments and sampling may have affected your results.

Explain how changes in any/each of them would give a better/different answer to your problem statement.

- **Recommendations**

Suggest at least THREE recommendations. They should be sensible, practical solutions which could be easily implemented.

Do not recommend activities or strategies which already exists as this shows lack of knowledge of your problem.