Theme 02: Defining the Research Problem

**Research Aims and Questions**

1. **Research Aim**

Once you have chosen the subject area for your research and decided on a topic, you are going to have to set a clear aim for your project. A good research aim:

* Is explicitly stated: e.g., “The aim of this research is to…”
* Includes verbs like “investigate”, “evaluate” or “compare”
* Contains enough detail to show the specific focus of your topic

For example: *The aim of this research is to investigate the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown on the feelings of attachment to home and neighbourhood among international students in Glasgow.*

1. **Research Questions**

In order to achieve your aim, you will need to break it down into more specific research questions which you intend to answer (or at least address) by conducting your project. You will not be able to write your questions until after you have done a significant of reading on your topic, so in your Research Proposal you are only required to include **one** draft question.

For example: *How did the stay-at-home orders in early 2020 influence the attitudes of international students towards various types of student accommodation?*

**TASK 1**

Look at the research aims below and categorise them according to their wider subject area: Science and Engineering (S&E); Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences (MVLS); Arts and Humanities (A&H); Law and Social Science (LSS) or Business, Economics and Finance (BEF).

1. This research project will compare native vs non-native English teachers’ performance in English as a Foreign Language classrooms.
2. This project aims to provide a comparative evaluation of solutions to current security issues with D2D communication in 5G.
3. The purpose of this research is to investigate the main influential factors of women’s clothing in the Tang Dynasty in China and in 18th century Europe.
4. This study will investigate the cost and feasibility of using industrial waste to make Fireproof Construction Materials.
5. This project aims to explore young people’s financial management behaviours.
6. This research aims to provide a critical analysis of interspecies communication.
7. This project will analyse the effectiveness of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in the present-day context.
8. This project aims to analyse the changes in American-Japanese social relationships through a comparative study of past and recent American films.
9. The purpose of this study is to investigate international students’ attitudes to impulse buying.
10. The aim of this project is to investigate into strategic therapies for stem cell and cardiovascular disease treatment.

**TASK 2**

Match the research aims above with the research questions.

1. To what extent can the study of communication between different species in nature better enable humans to communicate with their pets?
2. Which factors relating to the online shopping experience influence students’ likelihood to make impulse purchases?
3. As reflected by the stories of American and Japanese protagonists in an older and a more recent film, how have American-Japanese social relationships changed over time?
4. To what extent do students from different countries engage in saving money?
5. Is there enough evidence to suggest that treatment would be preferable to the cure in terms of handling Cardiovascular Diseases in the short term?
6. What distinctive influence do non-native English-speaking teachers have on EFL learners?
7. How could the DDA be adapted to decrease the number of incidents involving dogs?
8. How did women’s status influence women’s clothing in the Tang Dynasty in China and in the 18th century in Europe?
9. To what extent is permeability a factor in evaluating Fireproof Construction Materials?
10. What are the main security differences: D2D V. Manet and M2M?

**TASK 3 (For BEF/LSS)**

Think about the methodology: which of these projects can be based on primary research?

**TASK 4**

Write down your own aim and a few sample research questions.