

# 1. SAMPLING

An investigation on the quality of life should be done through a census. I was unable to conduct one because I had limited time and resources. As such, I resorted to sampling.

I considered several sampling techniques which are explained in detail in **Table 2.1** below:

**Table 2.1 – Sampling techniques**

<b>Sampling techniques</b>	<b>Justifications</b>	<b>Limitations</b>
<b>Transect Lines</b>		
Single or multiple lines are drawn across the two districts along an environmental gradient	Continuous sampling as such show gradual change from one end of the transect to the other	The position of the Transect Line is very important in order to acquire clear results
The environmental gradient is identified through pilot study	Sampling with transect line is systematic, therefore avoids bias	La Mina and Diagonal Mar are not located back to back, hence the buffer zone between them must be included and this may confuse my study
<b>Representative Zones/Quadrats</b>		
a pilot study is conducted to select representative areas; these will be the foundation of my quadrats	The areas are too large for a census and too small for random sample; quadrat is the alternative available	Do not show gradual change across the two districts
In La Mina, one quadrat is selected from the New Mina and the other from the Old Mina	Random sampling is not an option because randomly selected zones may not cover both New Mina and Old Mina	Selection is not systematic, therefore data may be biased
Since two quadrats are selected from La Mina, two are selected from Diagonal Mar for consistency	quadrats are of consistent size and shape and provide sufficient data	There may be insufficient or too much data
The Diagonal Mar Shopping Centre to the North-east of the zone will be included for data collection whether or not it falls under a representative quadrat	Pilot study shows that Diagonal Mar has no service within its residential centre. The only source of service is found in the DM Shopping Centre. It is included for data collection because the entire district falls under its sphere of influence	
The industrial site north-west of La Mina is excluded from data collection.	North-west to La Mina is an industrial site. There are no residences found here, so the quality of life of La Mina is not affected by this area.	
<b>Transect Belts</b>		
Like the transect line but with greater amount of data	Combines both methods above	Limitations same as that of the transect line
	Has the advantages of both methods	More complicated than either method above

is drawn across an environmental gradient

can be a continuous belt or a series of quadrats along a line

Because gradual change along an environmental gradient is not a part of my study, I decided to use Representative Quadrats as my data collection method. My representative areas are illustrated in **Map 2.1** below:

**Map 2.1 – Location of Sampling Zones (Source: Google Earth)**

Zone 3: Diagonal Mar (North West)  
Zone 4: Diagonal Mar (South West)

The North-eastern triangular tip of Diagonal Mar is the site for offices, the shopping centre, and Princess Hotel (5-star).



The North-western end of La Mina is industrial site.

Zone 1: New Mina  
Zone 1 is characterized by the six apartment blocks mentioned in Table 1.2.

Zone 2: Old Mina  
Zone 2 includes the 500 original La Mina apartments mentioned in Table 1.2

## 2. Data Type

**Table 2.2 – Data Types**

<b>Data Type</b>	<b>Method</b>	<b>Justification</b>	<b>Limitations</b>
Environmental Survey (Detail on page 10)	Survey the complete quadrat  Scores awarded based on features affecting the environmental quality [e.g. litter, noise, and vegetation]	A good quality of life includes a pleasant environment  Reliability will be tested by using Man-Whitney U test	Subjective  Easy to confuse Brownfield sites and construction sites; Brownfield sites are negative features, whereas construction sites are improvements in the quality of life
Residential Decay (Detail on page 11)	Survey the complete quadrat  Area scored on a range of features affecting house quality [e.g. deterioration of walls and broken windows]	House condition is a social aspect making up the quality of life  Reliability will be tested by using Man-Whitney U test	Subjective  There can be anomalies that do not represent the whole area
Perception Survey (Detail on page 12)	Survey the complete quadrat  Scores awarded judged on features affecting one's perception of the zone  Positive features (e.g. friendly, relaxed, etc) are awarded with positive points, negative features (dangerous, declining) negative	The quality of life itself is based on perception  People's perception of the area determine whether they would live in it  Reliability will be tested by using Man-Whitney U test	Entirely subjective  Cultural differences  Stigma attached to La Mina may cause bias
Index of Services and Amenities (Detail on page 13 - 14)	Survey the complete quadrat  The variety of amenities/services of each quadrat is counted and recorded  In the case of Diagonal Mar, this Index is based on the Diagonal Mar Shopping centre. The reason is stated in <b>Table 2.1</b>	Reveals the economic quality of the zones  Services are apart of the social aspect of the quality of life  Reliability will be tested by using Man-Whitney U test	Services in Diagonal Mar are all located in the Shopping Centre, which means that it is difficult to identify local and gentrified services  Services close between 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Prices of convenience items	Find the mean price of a convenience item (e.g. a can of Coca-Cola) in each quadrat	Reflects economic levels in the districts  Reliability will be tested by using Man-Whitney U test	Shops may close at certain times of the day
Secondary Data	Data from past government Census, internet	Provide information I can not acquire	Maybe unreliable/biased/out of

**NOTE:** - I decided not to elaborate *Prices of Convenience Items* as a separate survey because it is difficult to compare small convenience stores found in La Mina with Diagonal Mar Shopping Centre, which is aimed for the entire city

- Also, because I have too many sources for my Secondary Data, I decided to simply integrate these into the text, and refer to them in my bibliography I instead of tabulating them