

General Certificate of Education
June 2007
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



SOCIOLOGY
Unit 3

SC3W

Tuesday 15 May 2007 9.00 am to 10.00 am

For this paper you must have:

- an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is SC3W.
- This paper consists of **one** question. Answer **all** parts of the question.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- The marks for part questions are shown in brackets.
- Part questions (e) and (f) should be answered in continuous prose. In these part questions you will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

SOCIOLOGICAL METHODSAnswer **all** parts of the question.

Total for this question: 60 marks**1** Read **Items A and B** and answer parts (a) to (f) which follow.**Item A**

Brown and Gay (1985) investigated the extent of racial discrimination in employment in Britain.

‘In any study, the sociologist’s selection of research method is influenced by a range of factors, such as time. In our case, one of the most important factors was the topic of study itself. Discrimination is a very difficult concept to operationalise. Because of its ‘hidden’ nature, the extent of racial discrimination is difficult to identify using conventional research techniques such as questionnaires or interviews. 5

We used field experiments to identify whether discrimination had occurred. In one experiment, three volunteers made telephone applications for jobs. One volunteer was white, one was of African Caribbean origin and one was of Asian origin. Both the African Caribbean and the Asian volunteer had distinctive accents but spoke good English. All three presented similar employment histories and the calls were made at a similar time on the same day. 10

We recorded positive responses, such as interviews or job offers, and negative responses, such as rejections. The rejection rates for the white, Asian and African Caribbean applicants were then compared to identify any variations which could indicate discrimination.’ 15

Source: adapted from C BROWN and P GAY, *Racial Discrimination: 17 years after the Act*, © Policy Studies Institute 1985. All rights are reserved.

Item B

Carrabine and Longhurst (2002) used a range of research techniques to investigate the role of cars and car use in contemporary youth culture.

‘First, respondents filled in a questionnaire about their cultural life. This asked about the use and significance of such things as television, music, cinema, sport and magazines. This gave us a ‘map’ of each individual’s cultural life. 5

Second, we used group interviews to examine how important particular aspects of their cultural lives were. Third, 45 unstructured interviews were carried out to examine in greater detail the experience of consumption across a range of activities. Young people were encouraged to give their views on the importance of car use in their own words. Responses included: 10

“It’s unbelievable, like before you are 17 you think, I’ll just walk. And now, I don’t even walk down the road. I’ll get the car. I mean, whether it’s me being lazy, but...”

and

“Yeah, yeah it’s, I mean the first two months you’ve just got this massive buzz every time you go out in the car. I mean, it’s great.” 15

Finally, we carried out a small amount of covert participant observation to add to our understanding of the complexities of young people’s use of cars.’

Source: adapted from E CARRABINE and B LONGHURST, *Consuming the car: anticipation, use and meaning in contemporary youth culture*, The Sociological Review, Blackwell Publishing, 2002

- (a) Explain what is meant by ‘operationalise’ (**Item A**, line 5). (2 marks)
- (b) Suggest **two** disadvantages of ‘**covert** participant observation’ (**Item B**, line 16). (4 marks)
- (c) Suggest **three** factors, **apart from** those referred to in **Item A**, that may influence a ‘sociologist’s selection of research method’ (**Item A**, line 3). (6 marks)
- (d) Identify and briefly explain **two** disadvantages of carrying out field experiments (**Item A**). (8 marks)
- (e) Examine the reasons why some sociologists use secondary data in their research. (20 marks)
- (f) Using material from **Item B** and elsewhere, assess the usefulness of different types of interview in sociological research. (20 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page