



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
June 2009

Sociology

SCLY2

Unit 2

Specimen paper for examinations in June 2010 onwards

This question paper uses the new numbering system and new AQA answer book

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 2 hours

Instructions

- Use black ink or black 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 SCLY2.
- This paper is divided into **two** Sections.
Choose **one** section and answer **all** questions from that section.
Do **not** answer questions from more than one section.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work that you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 90.
- Questions carrying 12 marks or more should be answered in continuous prose. In these questions you will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Choose **either** Section A **or** Section B and answer **all** the questions from that Section.

Section A Education with Research Methods

You are advised to spend approximately 50 minutes on Questions

0	1
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 to

0	4
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You are advised to spend approximately 30 minutes on Question

0	5
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You are advised to spend approximately 40 minutes on Questions

0	6
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 to

0	9
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Total for this section: 90 marks

Education

Read **Item A** below and answer Questions

0	1
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 to

0	4
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 that follow.

Item A

Functionalists argue that value consensus – agreed social values – is essential for the well-being of society. Schools play a vital role by socialising young people into these basic values. In western societies, schools stress the value of achievement and the importance of equal opportunity. For example, schools operate on meritocratic principles. Functionalists also see education as ‘sifting and sorting’ young people, matching them to the future work roles that suit their abilities. 5

However, not all sociologists agree that the main function of education is to maintain a value consensus in society. Marxists argue that education transmits values that benefit the ruling class, not society as a whole.

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 Explain what is meant by the term ‘compensatory’ education. (2 marks)
- | | |
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 Suggest **three** material factors that might cause working-class educational underachievement. (6 marks)
- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 3 |
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 Outline some of the reasons why different pupil subcultures exist in schools. (12 marks)
- | | |
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| 0 | 4 |
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 Using material from **Item A** and elsewhere, assess the claim that ‘the main function of education is to maintain a value consensus in society’ (**Item A**, lines 7–8). (20 marks)

Methods in Context

This question requires you to **apply** your knowledge and understanding of sociological research methods to the study of this **particular** issue in **education**.

Read **Item B** below and answer the question that follows.

Item B

Investigating teachers' attitudes towards minority ethnic group pupils

Gillborn and Youdell (2000) claim that some teachers hold 'racialised expectations'. In other words, they expect different attitudes, behaviour and results from pupils from different ethnic backgrounds. As these expectations are likely to be transmitted to pupils, they may well contribute to ethnic differences in pupils' achievement.

Some sociologists use participant observation to study teacher interaction with pupils from different ethnic backgrounds. This has the advantage of the researcher seeing how teachers actually treat their pupils. However, there are problems in using this method, both because teachers have a professional duty to treat all pupils fairly and because the classroom is a relatively 'closed' social setting. 5

An alternative research technique is to use anonymous self-completion questionnaires with both teachers and pupils. With these, teachers are less likely to disguise their true feelings in order to protect their professional image. However, the sensitive nature of teacher attitudes towards pupils from different ethnic groups may still cause research problems. 10

0 | 5

Using material from **Item B** and elsewhere, assess the strengths and limitations of **one** of the following methods for investigating teachers' attitudes towards minority ethnic group pupils:

EITHER participant observation

OR questionnaires.

(20 marks)

Research Methods

These questions permit you to draw examples from **any areas** of sociology with which you are familiar.

0 | 6

Explain what is meant by the term 'triangulation'.

(2 marks)

0 | 7

Suggest **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of a longitudinal study.

(4 marks)

0 | 8

Suggest **two** disadvantages that sociologists may find when using unstructured interviews.

(4 marks)

0 | 9

Examine the disadvantages some sociologists may find when using official statistics in their research.

(20 marks)

Turn over for Section B

Turn over ►

Section B Health with Research Methods

You are advised to spend approximately 50 minutes on Questions **1 0** to **1 3**

You are advised to spend approximately 30 minutes on Question **1 4**

You are advised to spend approximately 40 minutes on Questions **1 5** to **1 8**

Total for this section: 90 marks

Health

Read **Item C** below and answer Questions **1 0** to **1 3** that follow.

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- 1 0** Explain what is meant by the term 'inverse care law'. (2 marks)
- 1 1** Suggest **three** cultural or behavioural factors that could affect a person's health chances. (6 marks)
- 1 2** Outline some of the reasons for ethnic differences in access to health care. (12 marks)
- 1 3** Using material from **Item C** and elsewhere, assess sociological explanations of gender differences in health chances and health care. (20 marks)

Methods in Context

This question requires you to **apply** your knowledge and understanding of sociological research methods to the study of this **particular** issue in **health**.

Read **Item D** below and answer the question that follows.

Item D

Investigating social class inequalities in health

Sociologists are interested in the relationship between social class and health inequalities. Studies show that wealthy people are more likely to live longer and experience better health than poor people.

Because the provision of health care is one of the government's main responsibilities, it collects a wide range of official statistics – including social class inequalities in health. For example, Office for National Statistics data shows that, in 2001, residents in the most deprived areas of the United Kingdom were more than twice as likely to be disabled as those who lived in the least deprived areas. 5

Sociologists also want to understand the reasons for social class inequalities in health. Some argue that these inequalities result from the different behaviour choices made by members of different classes. To test this claim, sociologists often use anonymous self-completion questionnaires to identify the frequency of such behaviour choices. For example, a questionnaire might ask respondents to identify the amount of alcohol they usually drink or to record their food consumption over a period of time. 10

1 | 4 Using material from **Item D** and elsewhere, assess the strengths and limitations of **one** of the following methods for investigating social class inequalities in health:

EITHER official statistics

OR questionnaires. (20 marks)

Research Methods

These questions permit you to draw examples from **any areas** of sociology with which you are familiar.

1 | 5 Explain what is meant by the term 'triangulation'. (2 marks)

1 | 6 Suggest **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of a longitudinal study. (4 marks)

1 | 7 Suggest **two** disadvantages that sociologists may find when using unstructured interviews. (4 marks)

1 | 8 Examine the advantages some sociologists may find when using participant observation in their research. (20 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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