



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
January 2011

Sociology

SCLY2

Unit 2

Tuesday 18 January 2011 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm

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 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** to **0 4**.

You are advised to spend approximately 30 minutes on Question **0 5**.

You are advised to spend approximately 40 minutes on Questions **0 6** to **0 9**.

Total for this section: 90 marks

Education

Read **Item A** below and answer questions **0 1** to **0 4** that follow.

Item A

Sociologists see the education system as performing a vital role in modern societies. While the family can provide young people with basic values and some useful practical skills, it cannot equip individuals with everything they need in order to become fully functioning members of a large-scale society.

In modern economies with a highly complex division of labour, only the education system can equip individuals with the specialised knowledge and skills they will need when they join the workforce. Furthermore, the education system not only provides young people with the necessary training; it also selects and allocates them to their future work roles. 5

However, while many sociologists agree that education plays a vital economic role in today's society, they disagree about whether this is done on the basis of individuals' abilities and efforts, and about who benefits as a result. 10

- 0 1** Explain what is meant by the term 'cultural deprivation'. (2 marks)
- 0 2** Identify **three** educational policies that may have contributed to social class differences in achievement. (6 marks)
- 0 3** Outline some of the ways in which factors outside the education system have resulted in improved educational achievement for girls. (12 marks)
- 0 4** Using material from **Item A** and elsewhere, assess the view that the education system exists mainly to select and prepare young people for their future work roles. (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 the role of parents in pupils' achievement | |
| Parents play a vital role in pupils' achievement. There may be social class differences in parents' income levels, cultural capital, educational qualifications, attitudes to school and how they socialise their children, for example into using different speech codes. Similarly, ethnic differences among parents, for example in family structure, discipline styles or home language, may affect pupils' achievement. | 5 |
| Questionnaires may be a good way of investigating the role of parents in pupils' achievement. Pupils can be asked to distribute them to parents at no cost, giving wide coverage. Parents are accustomed to supplying information to the school on a regular basis and this will help to ensure a good response. However, the questions asked may be very personal and some parents may feel that they are being judged. | 10 |
| Alternatively, unstructured interviews are useful for exploring sensitive subjects such as discipline or the support parents give, and they can also be used with teachers and pupils to learn more about parents' involvement in the child's education. However, there may be practical problems in gaining access to some parents. | 15 |

0 | 5

Using material from **Item B** and elsewhere, assess the strengths and limitations of **one** of the following methods for investigating the role of parents in pupils' achievement:

EITHER questionnaires

OR unstructured interviews.

(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 'primary' data.

(2 marks)

0 | 7

Suggest **two** disadvantages that sociologists might find when using structured interviews.

(4 marks)

0 | 8

Suggest **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of using laboratory experiments in sociological research.

(4 marks)

0 | 9

Examine the advantages of using personal documents and historical documents in sociological research.

(20 marks)

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.

Item C

When the National Health Service (NHS) was created in 1948, it was free at the point of use and it was assumed that this would guarantee everyone equal access to health care. However, there remain significant differences in access to and use of health care. These include differences between males and females. For example, women of childbearing age visit their doctor more often than men do. This may be due both to biological reasons and to their role as carers. 5

Similarly, there are differences between ethnic groups, with some groups making less use of health services and receiving less satisfactory treatment than others. Some sociologists see this as the result of institutional racism on the part of the NHS, while others see cultural factors as an important reason for ethnic differences in use of formal health care services. 10

- 1 0** Explain what is meant by the term 'diseases of affluence'. (2 marks)
- 1 1** Identify **three** features of the bio-medical model of health and illness. (6 marks)
- 1 2** Outline some of the ways in which cultural and behavioural factors may affect social class differences in health chances. (12 marks)
- 1 3** Using material from **Item C** and elsewhere, assess sociological explanations of differences in the use of health care services between different ethnic groups and between males and females. (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 the distribution and nature of mental illness | |
| Studies show that members of some social groups are more likely than others to be diagnosed with a mental illness. This may be due to factors such as higher levels of stress, or labelling by doctors. | |
| The government collects nationwide official statistics on mental health using both large-scale surveys, such as the psychiatric morbidity survey, and medical records, for example the annual census of patients in psychiatric hospitals. This data allows sociologists to correlate the distribution of mental illness with social factors such as housing and employment. However, such data is often based on medical definitions of who is mentally ill. | 5 |
| A small minority of those with mental illness are diagnosed with serious psychotic disorders and admitted to hospital. Such patients are often regarded as irrational and their views are often not taken seriously. By using participant observation, some sociologists aim to get closer to the real nature of mental illness so as to reveal the meanings of these patients and give them a voice. However, such research faces many problems, for example in selecting a sample and in conducting observations in psychiatric wards or hospitals. | 10 15 |

1 | 4

Using material from **Item D** and elsewhere, assess the strengths and limitations of **one** of the following methods for investigating the distribution and nature of mental illness:

EITHER official statistics

OR participant observation.

(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 'primary' data.

(2 marks)

1 | 6

Suggest **two** disadvantages that sociologists might find when using structured interviews.

(4 marks)

1 | 7

Suggest **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of using laboratory experiments in sociological research.

(4 marks)

1 | 8

Examine the advantages of using personal documents and historical documents in sociological research.

(20 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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