



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Level Examination  
January 2011

## Sociology

## SCLY4

### Unit 4

Tuesday 25 January 2011 9.00 am to 11.00 am

**For this paper you must have:**

- an AQA 16-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 SCLY4.
- 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 **one** section and answer **all** the questions from that section.

### Section A: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

You are advised to spend approximately 45 minutes on questions **0 1** and **0 2**.

You are advised to spend approximately 30 minutes on questions **0 3**, **0 4** and **0 5**.

You are advised to spend approximately 45 minutes on question **0 6**.

**Total for this section: 90 marks**

#### Crime and Deviance

- 0 1** Examine some of the factors that may contribute to people becoming victims of crime. (12 marks)

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

#### Item A

Subcultural theorists, who have developed earlier functionalist ideas about crime, are interested in explaining why some people in society break the rules. Subcultural theories see crime and deviance as a group activity.

Different subcultural theories take different views on the reasons for crime and rule-breaking. However, they all agree that subcultural crime and deviance are best understood by looking at the groups involved in order to identify what causes members to be attracted to rule-breaking. In particular, subcultural theories look at why members of these groups hold different norms and values from the rest of society. 5

Other sociologists link subcultural crime and deviance to the nature of capitalism and focus on the structure of society rather than on the motivations of the group. 10

- 0 2** Using material from **Item A** and elsewhere, assess the usefulness of subcultural theories in explaining 'subcultural crime and deviance' in society today. (21 marks)

## Methods in Context

**0 | 3** Identify and briefly explain **one** problem of using official statistics to measure the extent of green crime. (3 marks)

**0 | 4** Identify and briefly explain **two** advantages of using covert observation to study criminal gangs. (6 marks)

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

<b>Item B</b>	
<b>Investigating prisoners' experience of imprisonment</b>	
An area of crime and deviance which causes much debate is prisoners' experience of imprisonment. One key issue in this debate is whether prison punishes or rehabilitates offenders. One way in which sociologists can research the experience of imprisonment is by gaining the views of the prisoners themselves.	
A key feature of studying prisoners is the nature of the prison in which they are held, ranging from open to maximum security. Nevertheless, all prisons are closed environments, with access available only with permission from the prison hierarchy. Prison life is regulated, with prisoners' time being controlled. The lack of activity can mean prisoners are often bored and demotivated.	5
The characteristics of the prisoners themselves must also be taken into account by researchers. Statistics show that prisoners are more likely to:	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● be from a lower social class</li> <li>● be members of a minority ethnic group</li> <li>● be young</li> <li>● have poor literacy levels.</li> </ul>	15

**0 | 5** Using material from **Item B** and elsewhere, assess the strengths and limitations of using written questionnaires as a means of investigating prisoners' experience of imprisonment. (15 marks)

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

## Theory and Methods

**0 | 6** Assess the view that positivist methods are inappropriate for investigating society. (33 marks)

**Turn over for Section B**

**Turn over ►**

---

**Section B: Stratification and Differentiation with Theory and Methods**

You are advised to spend approximately 45 minutes on questions **0 7** and **0 8**.

You are advised to spend approximately 30 minutes on questions **0 9**, **1 0** and **1 1**.

You are advised to spend approximately 45 minutes on question **1 2**.

---

**Total for this section: 90 marks**

**Stratification and Differentiation**

**0 7** Examine the view that disability can lead to social exclusion and poverty. (12 marks)

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

**Item C**

The complex nature of social class makes it a difficult term to define. This problem of definition is linked to differences in the way social class is measured.

Governments use occupation to measure officially an individual's social class. This way of measuring is also used by some sociologists. Similarly, individuals use occupation to identify their own and other people's social class. However, their subjective view may differ from the official view. 5

Changes to work and the nature of employment can affect the status of occupations. However, these changes in status may not always lead to adjustments in the way governments measure social class. Similarly, changes in the official classification of occupations are not always reflected in the way people see social class subjectively. 10

**0 8** Using material from **Item C** and elsewhere, assess the view that social class should not be measured by occupation alone. (21 marks)

## Methods in Context

**0 9** Identify and briefly explain **one** advantage of using participant observation to study the experiences of the long-term unemployed. (3 marks)

**1 0** Identify and briefly explain **two** disadvantages of using participant observation to study the experiences of the long-term unemployed. (6 marks)

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

**Item D**

**Investigating the relationship between domestic responsibilities and career opportunities**

Despite many changes in the position of women over the last 30 years, there are still differences between the life chances of men and women in society. Often the differences relate to women's domestic responsibilities and how these link to their career opportunities. Women rarely have a choice in the nature of their domestic role and, when combined with work outside the home, this can lead to women feeling resentful. 5

The social role of women means women are more likely to:

- be in part-time employment
- be responsible for childcare
- have male bosses. 10

Men, on the other hand, are less likely to have the main responsibility for domestic duties or childcare and are therefore unlikely to take a career break for childrearing. This may impact on a prospective employer's decision about which gender to employ.

Career opportunities for women may depend not just on their gender but also on their social class and their ethnicity. 15

**1 1** Using material from **Item D** and elsewhere, assess the strengths and limitations of using unstructured interviews as a means of investigating the relationship between domestic responsibilities and career opportunities. (15 marks)

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

## Theory and Methods

**1 2** Assess the view that positivist methods are inappropriate for investigating society. (33 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**There are no questions printed on this page**

**There are no questions printed on this page**

**There are no questions printed on this page**