



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
January 2012

Sociology

SCLY2

Unit 2

Friday 20 January 2012 9.00 am to 11.00 am

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** the questions in 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 in 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

According to some sociologists, cultural factors are the most important cause of social class differences in educational achievement. In their view, there are deep-rooted differences between working-class and middle-class subcultures. For example, they argue that working-class subculture encourages fatalism and collectivism, whereas middle-class subculture encourages individuals to be achievement-oriented. Such subcultural differences originate in the home, but they are reinforced through peer groups. 5

However, critics claim that the importance of such cultural factors has been overstated. Instead, they argue that material factors in pupils' home background are the key to understanding class differences in achievement. 10

- 0 1** Explain what is meant by the term 'meritocracy'. (2 marks)
- 0 2** Suggest **three** factors within schools that may lead to the educational under-achievement of pupils from some minority ethnic groups. (6 marks)
- 0 3** Outline some of the reasons for gender differences in subject choice. (12 marks)
- 0 4** Using material from **Item A** and elsewhere, assess the importance of cultural factors in causing social class differences in educational achievement. (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 applications and admissions to secondary schools

Sociologists are interested in the processes by which pupils and their parents apply to, and pupils are admitted to, secondary schools. Much evidence suggests that working-class and minority ethnic group pupils are less likely to apply or to gain admission to higher status schools with good results.

Sociologists sometimes study applications and admissions to secondary schools by analysing documents. For example, study of the home/school contracts of high status schools may show that they require parents to make commitments that poorer families cannot make. Similarly, if researchers can obtain application forms and entrance test papers, these can be analysed for cultural bias. However, documents do not always convey a true picture of what really happens. 5

Sociologists may also study applications and admissions to secondary schools by using official statistics. For example, a study of statistics shows that selective schools have a lower proportion of pupils on free school meals. Similarly, official statistics can be used to measure the effect of changes in admissions policies, for example when a school changes from being non-selective to being selective. However, there may be no official statistics available on factors that sociologists consider important. 10

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Using material from **Item B** and elsewhere, assess the strengths and limitations of using **one** of the following methods for investigating applications and admissions to secondary schools:

EITHER documents

OR official statistics.

(20 marks)

Section A continues on the next page

Turn over ►

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 Hawthorne effect'. *(2 marks)*
- 0 7** Suggest **two** problems of covert participant observation. *(4 marks)*
- 0 8** Identify **two** sampling techniques used by sociologists in their research. *(4 marks)*
- 0 9** Examine the advantages for sociologists in using unstructured interviews in their research. *(20 marks)*

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

There are significant social class differences in health chances: working-class people are at greater risk of illness, disability and early death than middle-class people. For example, according to official health statistics, men in routine manual jobs are nearly three times more likely to die before age 65 than men in higher managerial jobs. According to the materialist explanation, these class differences are the result of factors such as the nature of work, insecurity and unemployment. 5

The materialist explanation is often described as a structural explanation, since it sees the unequal structure of society as the underlying cause of class inequalities in health. However, some sociologists argue that material deprivation is no longer the main cause of health inequalities in the United Kingdom today. For example, cultural and behavioural differences may now be more important. 10

- 1 0** Explain what is meant by the term 'epidemiology'. (2 marks)
- 1 1** Suggest **three** reasons why women on average live longer than men. (6 marks)
- 1 2** Outline some of the ways in which both the body and disability may be socially constructed. (12 marks)
- 1 3** Using material from **Item C** and elsewhere, assess the materialist explanation of social class differences in health chances. (20 marks)

Section B continues on the next page

Turn over ►

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 health promotion campaigns	
Health education and promotion campaigns provide information and advice on health issues such as sex, drugs, smoking and screening for particular diseases. Their message may be targeted at the population as a whole, or at specific groups such as ethnic minorities, pregnant women or young people. Usually their aim is to change people's behaviour or to encourage them to use particular health services.	5
Sociologists may use self-completion questionnaires to study health promotion campaigns. Health authorities keep records of service users, so questionnaires could be distributed to obtain feedback from them on the campaign. Questionnaires also allow researchers to find out about respondents' social characteristics along with their responses to the campaign's message. However, some people may not understand the language or terminology used in the questionnaires.	10
Sociologists may also analyse documents to study health promotion campaigns. Documents are usually free and readily available from a variety of places and in many different formats. Analysing documents may reveal the underlying assumptions and stereotypes that health professionals hold about particular groups. However, documents tell us nothing about whether or how members of the target group actually receive, understand or act upon the message.	15

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Using material from **Item D** and elsewhere, assess the strengths and limitations of using **one** of the following methods for investigating health promotion campaigns:

EITHER self-completion questionnaires

OR documents.

(20 marks)

Research Methods

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

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 Explain what is meant by 'the Hawthorne effect'. *(2 marks)*
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| 1 | 6 |
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 Suggest **two** problems of covert participant observation. *(4 marks)*
- | | |
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|---|---|

 Identify **two** sampling techniques used by sociologists in their research. *(4 marks)*
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| 1 | 8 |
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 Examine the advantages for sociologists in using unstructured interviews in their research. *(20 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page