



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
June 2013

## Sociology

## SCLY2

### Unit 2

Tuesday 21 May 2013 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.

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

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**Section A: Education with Research Methods**

You are advised to spend approximately 50 minutes on questions 

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You are advised to spend approximately 30 minutes on question 

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You are advised to spend approximately 40 minutes on questions 

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 to 

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**Total for this section: 90 marks**

**Education**

Read **Item A** below and answer questions 

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 that follow.

**Item A**

The educational achievements of both boys and girls have improved since the 1980s, but girls' results have improved more rapidly. They have overtaken boys in Key Stage tests, at GCSE and at A level. Girls are also more likely than boys to go to university. However, gender differences in subject choice remain relatively unchanged in both academic and vocational courses.

Sociologists argue that these patterns of achievement and of subject choice are the result of factors both within the education system and in wider society.

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 Explain what is meant by 'material deprivation'. *(2 marks)*
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 Identify **three** government policies that may have reduced social class differences in educational achievement. *(6 marks)*
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 Outline some of the reasons why pupils form subcultures in schools. *(12 marks)*
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 Using material from **Item A** and elsewhere, assess sociological explanations of gender differences in achievement and in subject choice. *(20 marks)*

## Methods in Context

The following 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 social class differences in university entrance

Working-class students are less likely than middle-class students to go to university, especially higher-status universities such as Oxford and Cambridge. This could be because working-class students underachieve due to material factors. Cultural factors, such as a lack of role models or feeling that university is 'not for the likes of us', may also play a part. Fees policies, as well as bias in some universities, may also affect students' aspirations.

Some sociologists may use group interviews to study social class differences in university entrance. For example, a trained sociologist can probe effectively to obtain important insights into students' motives and aspirations for the future. However, status differences between the interviewer and interviewees may cause problems. Furthermore, peer pressure to conform to group norms may distort the results of the interview.

Other sociologists may use postal questionnaires to study social class differences in university entrance. For example, postal questionnaires can be used to gather straightforward factual data on income, qualifications and university choice, etc. However, the researcher does not know who actually completed the questionnaire. Furthermore, those with more interest in the subject of the questionnaire, or with stronger views about it, are more likely to respond.

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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 social class differences in university entrance:

**EITHER**      group interviews

**OR**            postal questionnaires.

*(20 marks)*

**Section A continues on the next page**

**Turn over ►**

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**Research Methods**

The following 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 'objectivity'. *(2 marks)*
- 0 7** Suggest **two** disadvantages of longitudinal studies in sociological research. *(4 marks)*
- 0 8** Suggest **two** advantages of using structured interviews in sociological research. *(4 marks)*
- 0 9** Examine the problems that sociologists may face when using covert participant observation and covert non-participant observation in their research. *(20 marks)*

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**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**.

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**Total for this section: 90 marks**

**Health**

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

**Item C**

The medical profession presents itself as altruistic – concerned above all with the interests of its patients. However, conflict sociologists, such as Marxists and feminists, argue that the medical profession is less concerned with serving the interests of patients or of wider society than with serving its own interests or those of powerful groups, such as global drugs companies. However, Parsons argues that the medical profession serves the interests of society as a whole, by controlling access to the sick role.

- 1 0** Explain what is meant by the term 'impairment'. (2 marks)
- 1 1** Suggest **three** reasons why women seem to have higher rates of illness than men. (6 marks)
- 1 2** Outline some of the cultural and material factors causing social class differences in health chances. (12 marks)
- 1 3** Using material from **Item C** and elsewhere, assess the view that the medical profession is more concerned with serving the interests of the powerful than those of patients or of wider society. (20 marks)

**Section B continues on the next page**

**Turn over ►**

## Methods in Context

The following 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 ethnic differences in the use of health care services

There are considerable differences between ethnic groups in their use of health care services. It is often poorer, lower status minority ethnic groups who make less use of the National Health Service (NHS), either out of choice or because appropriate services are less readily available or accessible. Different ethnic groups may also have different needs and a preference for different kinds of health care services.

Sociologists may use official statistics to investigate ethnic differences in the use of health care services. The government collects nationwide statistics on the NHS to assess the effectiveness of its policies, and sociologists can use these statistics. However, the definitions that the government uses for gathering official statistics may not be the same as the ones used by sociologists or by patients themselves. Furthermore, the statistics themselves tell us nothing about the interactions and decisions that produced them.

Sociologists may also use unstructured interviews to investigate ethnic differences in the use of health care services. This method can be very effective in revealing individuals' personal experiences and feelings. However, using unstructured interviews makes it difficult to analyse and compare the subjective perceptions of different individuals and groups. Status and power inequalities between interviewer and interviewee may also make interviewees reluctant to answer questions about their use of health care services truthfully.

1 | 4

Using material from **Item D** and elsewhere, assess the strengths and limitations of using **one** of the following methods for investigating ethnic differences in the use of health care services:

**EITHER**      official statistics

**OR**            unstructured interviews.

*(20 marks)*

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**Research Methods**

The following 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 term 'objectivity'. *(2 marks)*
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 Suggest **two** disadvantages of longitudinal studies in sociological research. *(4 marks)*
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 Suggest **two** advantages of using structured interviews in sociological research. *(4 marks)*
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 Examine the problems that sociologists may face when using covert participant observation and covert non-participant observation in their research. *(20 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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