



## ADVANCED GCE

## SOCIOLOGY

Social Inequality and Difference

**2539**

Candidates answer on the Answer Booklet

**OCR Supplied Materials:**

- 12 page Answer Booklet

**Other Materials Required:**

None

**Wednesday 28 January 2009**

**Afternoon**

**Duration:** 1 hour 30 minutes



### INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name clearly in capital letters, your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided on the Answer Booklet.
- Use black ink. Pencil may be used for graphs and diagrams only.
- Read each question carefully and make sure that you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Answer **one** question. Each question has **five** parts (a) to (e).
- Do **not** write in the bar codes.

### INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is **90**.
- You will be awarded marks for the quality of written communication where an answer requires a piece of extended writing.
- This document consists of **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

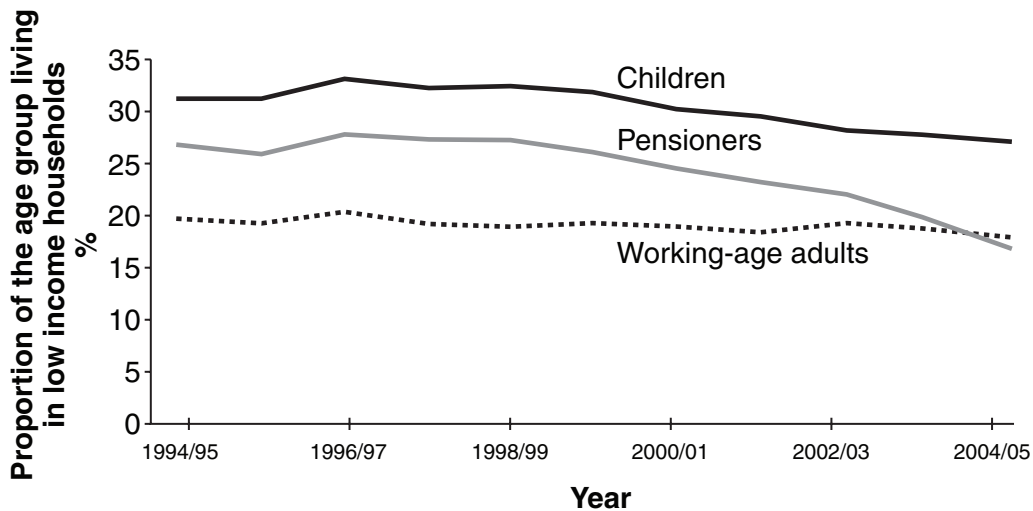
Answer question 1 **or** question 2 . Each question has **five** parts.

*You will be assessed on your understanding of the connections between sociological thought and methods of enquiry as they apply to the study of social inequality and difference. You should therefore take every opportunity to include references to aspects of social inequality that you have studied throughout your course.*

**Question 1** Read the following data carefully and then answer parts **(a)** to **(e)**.

### Item A

#### Low income by age group



Source: *Monitoring Poverty and Social Exclusion 2006*, Guy Palmer et al, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, [www.jrf.org.uk](http://www.jrf.org.uk)

### Item B

Sociologists may distinguish between absolute and relative poverty. But the poor in modern Britain suffer from both. In poor families, especially single parent families, it is an increasingly hard struggle to feed and clothe the children and keep up with the rent. Real wages for the worst off have scarcely increased since the 1970s. In 1970, when Polly Toynbee first tried to see how the poor live, she earned £12.50 a week working in a hospital ward, the equivalent of £210 a week today. Yet when she recently returned to do the same job in a new hospital, she earned only £174 a week – a substantial decrease in real terms ...

At the same time, the level of middle class pay has kept well ahead of inflation, while the pay of the top executives has accelerated. While suffering the daily practical misery of not quite making ends meet, the poor also have the humiliation of seeing how little the society they live in values their efforts. Their ever-increasing relative poverty entrenches feelings of worthlessness and inferiority.

Extract from F Mount, *Mind the Gap: The New Class Divide in Britain*, Short Books, 2005

- (a) Using **Item A**, identify **two** trends in the proportion of age groups living in low income households. [6]
- (b) Using **Item B**, identify **two** ways in which the poor in Britain suffer from living in poverty. [6]
- (c) Briefly explain **two** difficulties sociologists face when using household income to measure poverty in the UK. [12]
- (d) Using your wider sociological knowledge, outline the evidence to show that poverty exists in the UK. [22]
- (e) Outline and assess sociological explanations of class inequality in the contemporary UK. [44]

**[Total: 90 marks]**

*You will be assessed on your understanding of the connections between sociological thought and methods of enquiry as they apply to the study of social inequality and difference. You should therefore take every opportunity to include references to aspects of social inequality that you have studied throughout your course.*

**Question 2** Read the following data carefully and then answer parts (a) to (e).

**Item A**

**Male Work Patterns by ethnic group in the UK (employed males, 2005)**

	<b>Full Time Work %</b>	<b>Part Time Work %</b>
White	91	9
Mixed	85	15
Indian	91	9
Pakistani	80	20
Bangladeshi	61	39
Black-Caribbean	87	13
Black-African	78	22
Chinese	82	18

Source: Office for National Statistics, [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

**Item B**

Compared with only a decade ago, there is now a far greater variety of groups and individuals living in the UK, from more places around the world. Alongside the UK's well established African-Caribbean and Asian-Caribbean and Asian communities, there are relatively new, small scattered groups of Romanians, Ghanaians, mainland Chinese, Afghans, Japanese, Kurds, Zimbabweans, Iraqis and numerous others.

These new immigrant groups are highly diverse. Some are mostly women, such as Slovaks and Filipinos. Others are mostly men, such as Algerians and Albanians. Some are mostly single people, others have families. Some are particularly made up of young people in their 20s, others have a fuller range of ages. Immigrants today range from the highest-flying professionals to those with little education and training. Many hope to remain in Britain and become new citizens, while others plan to stay for only a short period.

Extract from S Vertovec, *New ethnic communities, from multiculturalism to super-diversity*, Britain Today, Economic & Social Research Council, 2007

- (a) Using **Item A**, identify the **two** ethnic groups within which the difference between the percentage of men working full time and the percentage of men working part time is the greatest. [6]
- (b) Using **Item B**, identify **two** forms of diversity amongst new immigrant groups. [6]
- (c) Briefly explain **two** methodological difficulties sociologists may face when researching the employment experiences of new immigrant groups in the UK. [12]
- (d) Using your wider sociological knowledge, outline the evidence to show that some ethnic groups are more advantaged than others in the contemporary UK. [22]
- (e) Assess sociological explanations of ethnic inequality in the contemporary UK. [44]

[Total: 90 marks]

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*Copyright Acknowledgements:*

- Q.1 Item A      Adapted from '*Monitoring poverty and social exclusion 2006*' by Guy Palmer, Peter Kenway and Tom MacInnes, published in 2006 by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Reproduced by permission of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Data source: Households below average income, DWP, GB.
- Q.1 Item B      © F Mount, *Mind the Gap: The New Class Divide in Britain*, p.258-259, Short Books, 2005
- Q.2 Item A      Source: Office for National Statistics, [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk). Crown copyright material is reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO and the Queen's Printer for Scotland.
- Q.2 Item B      Extract from S Vertovec, *New ethnic communities, from multiculturalism to super-diversity*, Britain Today, Economic & Social Research Council, 2007.

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