

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS
ADVANCED GCE
G674
SOCIOLOGY

Exploring Social Inequality and Difference

TUESDAY 29 JUNE 2010: Afternoon

DURATION: 2 hours

SUITABLE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CANDIDATES

Candidates answer on the Answer Booklet

OCR SUPPLIED MATERIALS:

16 page Answer Booklet

OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED:

None

READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF

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.**
- **Read each question carefully and make sure that you know what you have to do before starting your answer.**
- **Answer questions 1 and 2 and EITHER question 3 OR question 4.**

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 100.**

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You will be assessed on your understanding of the connections between sociological theory and methods of sociological enquiry as they apply to the study of social inequality and difference. This is linked to the core themes of power, social inequality, socialisation, culture and identity. In your answers to questions you are therefore encouraged to draw upon aspects of social inequality and difference studied throughout your course.

Answer questions 1 and 2 and EITHER question 3 OR question 4.

SOURCE MATERIAL

SOCIAL CLASS AND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES IN THE UK

A recent report examines the links between social class and participation in music, reading, television and film, visual arts, sport, leisure and eating out. The aim of the research was to test the idea that social class is a *‘powerful force affecting cultural taste and practice’*.

The researchers used a large scale social survey conducted in 2003 and 2004. A stratified random sample from 111 postcode sectors achieved a response rate of 52% with a final sample of 1564 of the UK population aged 18+. The questionnaires collected data on:

- **how often people took part in different cultural activities;**
- **their personal ‘likes and dislikes’, for example in books, films and sport;**
- **their occupation and income, education, gender, and parental background.**

This quantitative data was analysed using statistical methods to explore the relationship between different variables. The study was based on the view that sociological research should be scientific and objective.

In this study, social class was seen as the combination of economic, cultural and social capital. Social class was not seen simply as occupation or the division of labour. Table 1 below shows some examples of cultural differences between the classes as defined and measured in this study.

TABLE 1 Cultural Activities By Class

Activity	Professional Class	Intermediate Class	Working Class
Watch more than 5 hours television per weekday	8%	22%	33%
Read no books last year	8%	14%	27%
Never goes to art galleries	30%	52%	69%
Soap operas favourite television programme	10%	16%	22%
News favourite television programme	24%	19%	14%
Sometimes goes to orchestral concerts	22%	12%	7%

The research concluded that for some cultural activities class differences are very clear. For example, the professional class, on average, attends orchestral concerts or the opera over three times more than the working classes. On the whole, professionals participate more in all practices than the working class, with the main exception being watching television.

Adapted from ‘Class and Cultural Divisions in the UK’, a research report by M. Savage et al, in *Sociology*, Volume 42, No. 6, December 2008

Use the source material and your wider sociological knowledge to answer BOTH questions 1 and 2.

- 1 Outline and explain why questionnaires may be used in sociological research. [15]**
- 2 Outline and assess the view that quantitative methods are the most useful for sociological research into social class and cultural differences. [25]**

Using your wider sociological knowledge answer EITHER question 3(a) and (b) OR question 4(a) and (b).

- 3 (a) Outline the evidence that some females are disadvantaged in the contemporary UK. [20]**
- (b) Outline and assess feminist explanations of social inequality. [40]**

OR

- 4 (a) Outline the evidence that some ethnic groups are disadvantaged in the contemporary UK. [20]**
- (b) Outline and assess Marxist explanations of ethnic inequality. [40]**

[Total: 100]



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