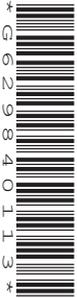# OCR
RECOGNISING ACHIEVEMENT

Monday 28 January 2013 – Morning

A2 GCE SOCIOLOGY

G674/01/I Exploring Social Inequality and Difference

INSERT – QUESTION BOOKLET

Duration: 2 hours

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

* Answer questions 1 and 2 and **either** question 3 **or** question 4.
* Read each question carefully. Make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
* Write your answer to each question on the lined pages in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers **must** be clearly shown.

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**.
* This document consists of **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

INSTRUCTION TO EXAMS OFFICER/INVIGILATOR

* Do not send this Insert for marking; it should be retained in the centre or recycled.

You will be assessed on your understanding of the connections between sociological thought 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.

Read the source material and answer compulsory questions 1 and 2. Answer **either** questions 3(a) and 3(b) **or** questions 4(a) and 4(b).

SOURCE MATERIAL

Investigating Ageing in a Youth Subculture

Previous sociological studies of youth subcultures, like rave, hip hop and punk, have suggested that involvement of young people in this type of subculture is temporary. Active involvement mainly takes place in adolescence and declines into adulthood. However, from his own experience, Hodkinson noted that in the goth scene, there is a tendency for involvement to continue well into adult life. This implies that the impact of ageing on youth subcultures and status may be more   *5* complex than sociologists have understood previously.

Hodkinson wanted to explore the experience of ageing within youth subcultures through a case study of the goth scene, which emerged in the UK in the early 1980s. It is recognisable by its dark style, black hair and clothing, and the use of makeup for both males and females. It is also linked to traditional, gothic cultural styles associated with horror and distinctive 'alternative' rock music.   *10*

As Hodkinson has been a long-term participant in the goth scene he was an insider researcher. He used several different qualitative methods, including participant observation at a variety of goth events and in-depth, unstructured interviews.

A snowball sample for the interviews was recruited mainly through members of the goth scene known to Hodkinson. The final sample included eight men and eight women with ages ranging   *15* from 27 to 43. All were long-term participants in the goth scene, most in long-term co-habiting relationships and four were parents. Most of the sample were middle class and white British, which reflected the goth population.

The unstructured interviews took place in different locations across England and lasted for between 45 and 130 minutes. The aim was to develop an informal conversation and to encourage   *20* the respondent to give their own account of ageing and their changing involvement within the goth scene.

Hodkinson found that adult involvement in the goth scene was seen by them as a community of people ageing together. This helped members to adapt their dress, culture and lifestyle to meet the demands of adult life and mainstream culture whilst remaining distinctively 'gothic'. Responding   *25* to the growing responsibilities of work, parenthood and ageing bodies were challenges that were negotiated together. However, the mainly middle class background of goths made the process of living within two cultures easier. For example, goths valued being educationally successful, which is closer to the mainstream values required in adult life than those of some other youth subcultures. This suggests that sociologists need to explore the intersection of class and age in understanding   *30* differences in youth subcultures and changing status in society.

> *Adapted from 'Ageing in a Spectacular 'Youth Culture': Continuity, Change and Community Amongst Older Goths', by Paul Hodkinson, in The British Journal of Sociology, Volume 62, Issue 2, 2011.*

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

1   Outline and explain why snowball sampling is used in sociological research.   **[15]**

2   Outline and assess the view that qualitative methods are the best way to research ageing in youth subcultures.   **[25]**

*Using your wider sociological knowledge answer **either** question 3(a) and 3(b) **or** question 4(a) and 4(b).*

3   **(a)** Outline the evidence for upper class advantage in the contemporary UK.   **[20]**

     (b) Outline and assess Weberian explanations of social class inequalities.   **[40]**

or

4   **(a)** Outline the evidence that the elderly are disadvantaged in the contemporary UK.   **[20]**

     (b) Outline and assess sociological explanations of age inequalities.   **[40]**

END OF QUESTION PAPER