

329/01

SOCIOLOGY SOC3

UNIT 3 – UNDERSTANDING CULTURE

A.M. WEDNESDAY, 24 May 2006

(1½ hours)

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need an 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer all questions from **ONE** option only.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

The time you spend on a question should be in proportion to the marks available.

You are reminded of the necessity for good written communication and orderly presentation in your answers.

Option 1: Education

1. Read items **A** and **B**, and then answer **all** the questions that follow.

Item A

What really makes girls choose childcare and boys bricklaying?

If a boy takes a job looking after children, he is four times more likely to worry about being teased by mates than a girl who opts to work on a building site.

A study into **vocational education** has been looking into occupational choices, focusing on five sectors: construction, engineering, plumbing, information technology and childcare.

It will surprise no one that the first four of these are male-dominated and the fifth is a female domain. Should we therefore worry, or even be surprised, if 99% of apprentices in construction are male and 97% of childcare apprentices are female?

“All this equal opportunities focus is not just about wanting girls to have a better time and social inclusion, it’s about giving them economic opportunities that they wouldn’t have otherwise,” says Alison Fuller of Southampton University. “There’s a story of girls losing out and also of the economy losing out.”

From questionnaires and focus groups conducted for the research, it emerges that 80% of girls and 55% of boys would be willing to learn to do a non-traditional job. Eighty-one per cent of girls and 58% of boys said that males and females could be equally good at plumbing. But are they attracted to non-traditional jobs? A fifth of boys agreed with the proposition that a career in childcare sounded interesting. Slightly fewer girls - 17% - agreed that a technical or engineering career sounded interesting and only 12% felt that way about construction.

Source: adapted from an article by Peter Kingston, August 2, 2005 The Guardian

Item B

Pupil's favourite school subject choice by percentage		
	Boys	Girls
Art and Design	6.3	22.3
Business Management	0.7	1.5
Biology	1.2	2.8
Chemistry	3.6	4.0
Computing	8.1	3.1
Design and Technology	9.1	2.9
Drama	2.8	9.9
English	1.7	3.0
Foreign Language	0.1	2.0
Geography	1.7	0.9
History	3.6	4.6
Home Economics	2.1	12.0
Maths	1.0	1.7
Music	10.3	10.3
PE	41.1	13.2
Physics	2.3	1.0
Science	0.2	0.8
No favourite	1.6	1.0

Source adapted from: <http://www.napier.ac.uk>

- (a) Using **Item A**, explain what is meant by **vocational education**. [10]
- (b) (i) Using **Item A**, identify patterns in the relationship between gender and occupational choice. [10]
- (ii) Using **Item B** identify patterns in the relationship between gender and school subject choice shown in the table. [10]
- (c) Outline and explain reasons for different gender choices of subjects and careers. [25]
- (d) Discuss why educational achievement varies among different social groupings. [45]

Option 2: Health

1. Read items **A** and **B**, and then answer **all** the questions that follow.

Item A

Health inequality gap ‘widening’

Health inequalities are widening despite government efforts to narrow the gap, independent experts say. The government pledged to reduce the inequality gap - measured by infant mortality and **life expectancy** - by 10% between 1997 and 2010. But latest figures show that on both counts the gap between the poorest areas and general population as a whole has increased.

To tackle inequality the government needed to look at “the circumstances in which people live and work, and the ways we raise our children, the standards of education”, he said. The Department of Health commissioned report found the gap in life expectancy between the bottom fifth and the population as a whole had widened by 2% for males and 5% for females between 1997-9 and 2001-3. The shift means the life expectancy in the wealthiest areas is seven to eight years longer than the poorest areas and the general population gap in the infant mortality rate was 19% higher in 2001-3, compared to 13% higher in 1997-9.

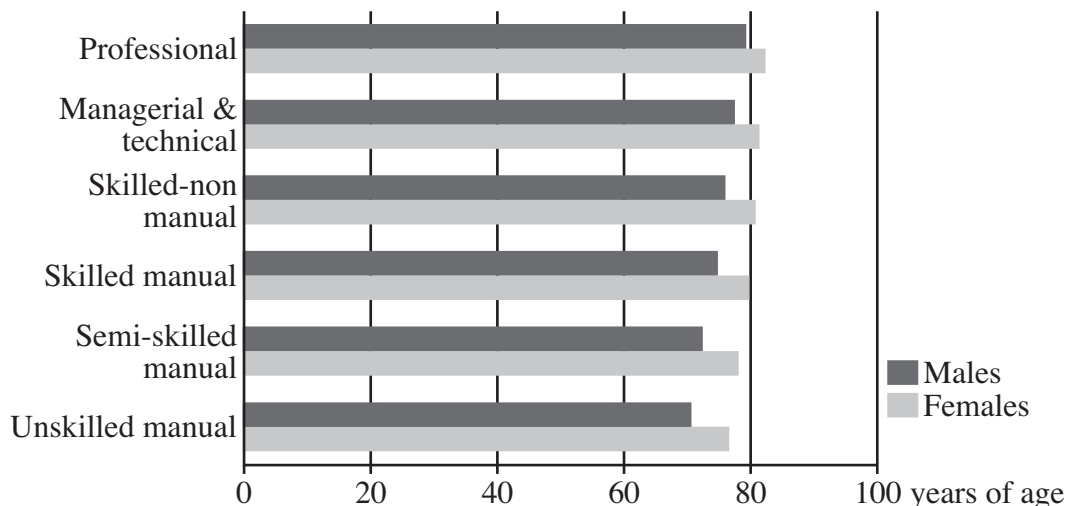
Health inequalities expert, Danny Dorling said “The government has some nice schemes, but without tackling wealth inequalities, which are widening, it is not going to be able to tackle health inequalities. This is the first Labour government that has failed to narrow the gap. It is astonishing that after eight years and making reducing health inequality a key target that we are in this position.”

Source: Adapted from www.bbc.co.uk/news

Item B

Life expectancy at birth: by social class and sex, 1997-99

England & Wales



Source: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads>

- (a) Using **Item A**, explain what is meant by the term **life expectancy**. [10]
- (b) (i) Using **Item A**, identify the evidence that health inequalities are widening. [10]
- (ii) Using **Item B**, identify patterns of life expectancy by social class and gender shown in the table. [10]
- (c) Outline and explain health inequalities in different parts of the UK. [25]
- (d) Discuss the reasons why life expectancy varies among different social groupings. [45]

Option 3: Religion

1. Read items **A** and **B**, and then answer **all** the questions that follow.

Item A

Marketing push for church weddings.

The Church of England (CoE) is planning a promotional campaign aimed at reversing a sharp decline in church weddings. The campaign gets under way in Birmingham on Friday where the **Church** will open its first ever stand at the National Wedding Show, the UK's biggest trade fair for wedding-related businesses.

Church weddings have fallen off steeply since the mid-1990s, when legal restrictions on where people could have a wedding ceremony were swept away. The change prompted thousands of couples to get married in exotic locations such as stately homes and tropical beaches instead.

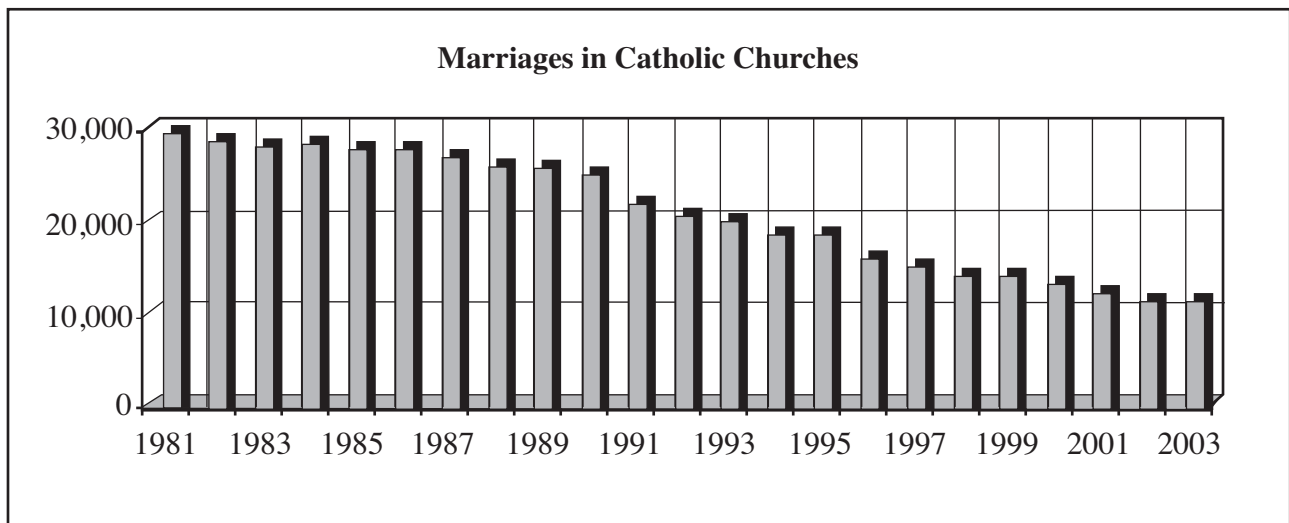
The CoE is now attempting to bring people back to church to get married. "It's difficult to say how much interest we will get from the show", says a CoE spokesperson. "But I'd be a fool if I thought this would reverse a trend."

The CoE's promotional material at the Wedding Show will emphasise the lifelong support it offers married couples. It will also draw attention to the traditional appeal of getting married in church. The Church will be competing head to head with holiday firms offering wedding packages in glamorous holiday destinations, including one which promotes underwater ceremonies off the coast of Mauritius.

The Church stresses that its interest in promoting its marriage services is not financial, and says it decided to take part in the Wedding Show at the organiser's invitation. But there is little doubt that any increase in the cash-strapped Church's income would be warmly welcome. The CoE's finances, squeezed by falling church attendances are not as healthy as they once were.

Weddings and funerals combined generate about £25m in revenues for the Church every year. This is a small fraction of the Church's estimated £825m running costs in 2001, the most recent year for which figures are available.

Adapted from <http://news.bbc.co.uk>

Item B

Source: www.catholic-ew.org.uk

- (a) Using **Item A**, explain what is meant by the term **Church**. [10]
- (b) (i) Using **Item A**, identify trends in modern marriage ceremonies. [10]
- (ii) Using **Item B**, identify patterns shown in the bar chart. [10]
- (c) Outline and explain reasons for the decline in church attendance. [25]
- (d) Discuss the reasons why there has been a growth in New Age Religious movements. [45]