



**General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary/Advanced**

329/01

**SOCIOLOGY SOC3
UNIT 3
UNDERSTANDING CULTURE**

A.M. TUESDAY, 15 January 2008
(1½ hours)

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 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

Many failing inner city schools have been closed and then re-opened as City Academies. They are set up with private sponsorship and supported with taxpayers' money. Twenty seven have been set up so far.

Terry Wrigley of Edinburgh University claims that schools in the governments' £5 billion academy programme, which aims to create two hundred city academy secondary schools by 2010, have failed to improve results compared with the comprehensives they replaced.

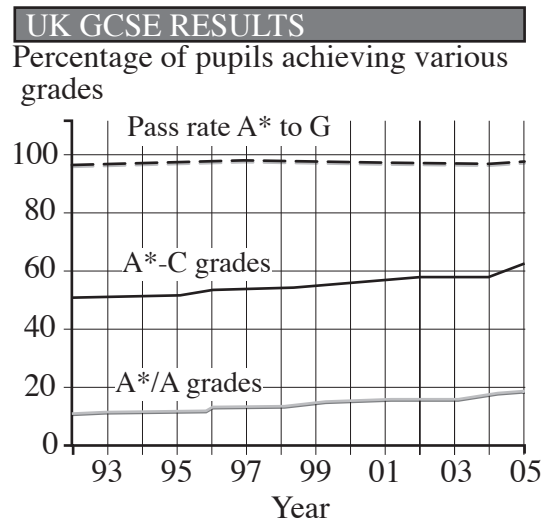
He said that some academies were diverting children away from GCSEs in order to improve their standing in school league tables. His study found that many children had been switched from taking separate subjects at GCSE to **vocational education**. They are sitting vocational qualifications, which count as four GCSEs in government tables.

According to Mr Wrigley, the proportion of children taking GNVQ qualifications has risen from 13% at the failing schools to around 52% at the academies.

He also said that although some academies are doing well, some have worse results than the school they replaced. The study found the number of pupils achieving the target of five GCSE A*-C grades including English and Mathematics has increased by only 0.2% in the first eleven academies opened.

However, the government disagrees. According to its figures, the number of youngsters achieving the target of five good GCSEs including english and mathematics at the first eleven academies opened had increased by over 1%.

Adapted from The Guardian newspaper

Item B

- (a) Explain what is meant by the term **vocational education**. [10]
- (b) (i) Using **Item A**, identify some of the main features of city academies, [10]
(ii) Using **Item B**, identify patterns in the attainment of pupils at GCSE. [10]
- (c) Identify and explain how inside school factors may influence the examination results of boys and girls. [25]
- (d) Discuss whether the education system in the UK is meritocratic. [45]

Option 2: Health

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

Item A

British doctors have complained against high prices set by drug companies. They plan to give patients a cheap but unlicensed drug that prevents blindness. This is to prevent people developing serious **disability** in old age.

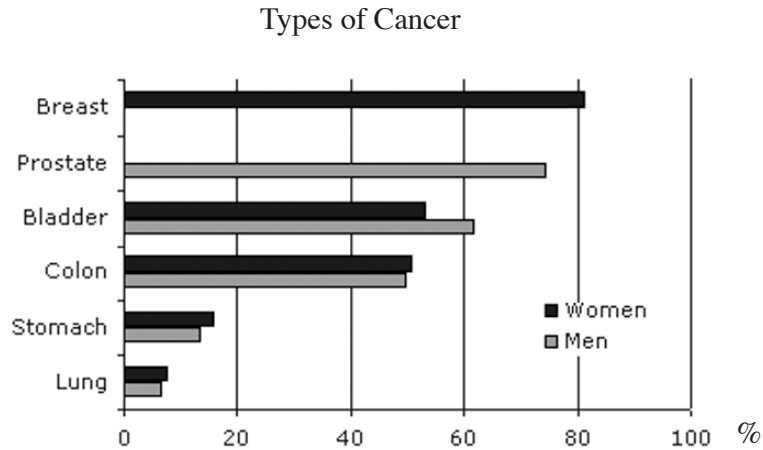
Unable to afford to treat all those losing their sight with a licensed and extremely expensive drug, known as Lucentis, some primary care trusts are giving NHS doctors the go ahead to use tiny shots of a similar drug, which costs a fraction of the price.

A call from the former health secretary, Patricia Hewitt, for the manufacturer to put the cheap drug through trials was ignored. Now the NHS is funding a trial which will compare both the expensive and the cheaper drugs.

The moves represent the first real challenge in this country to high prices set by drug companies. There is growing concern at the cost of new drugs. High prices have led to the banning or rationing of some medicines in the NHS. Drug companies say they need billions of dollars in sales to get their money back for their research and development costs.

Meanwhile, in the developing world, unaffordably high drug prices have given the drug industry a bad reputation. This has forced them to cut prices and has also led to successful campaigns to allow other companies to sell cheap versions of drugs.

Adapted from an article in the Guardian newspaper

Item B**Five year survival rates for selected cancers: for adults diagnosed during 1999-2003, England**

Adapted from the National Statistics Website

- (a) Explain what is meant by the term **disability**. [10]
- (b) (i) Using **Item A**, identify reasons why doctors need to prescribe some unlicensed drugs in the UK. [10]
- (ii) Using **Item B**, identify patterns in the five year survival rates between men and women who develop certain cancers. [10]
- (c) Identify and explain the impact of having a large proportion of older people within a population on the provision of health care. [25]
- (d) Discuss the usefulness of the bio-medical model of sickness. [45]

Option 3: Religion

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

Item A

A sense of identity for many young Muslims is formed from a mixture of experiences within the community, educational institutions, religion and family. Yet many young Muslims feel they have an inadequate grasp of their own heritage and history, against which to balance the other influences in their lives.

Young Muslims are concerned about the way they are understood by the public (non-Muslim and Muslim) and portrayed in the media.

Discussion between young people on the Muslim Youth Helpline, a confidential helpline for young Muslims, has included topics such as ineffective services for young Muslims; discontent over foreign policy; and the difficulties of integrating when people have the dual identity of being British and a Muslim.

A survey of 136 Muslims reported that a significant majority of the young people considered their local mosque an important focus for community participation and support, where they go to play sport, volunteer, learn and engage in spiritual activities.

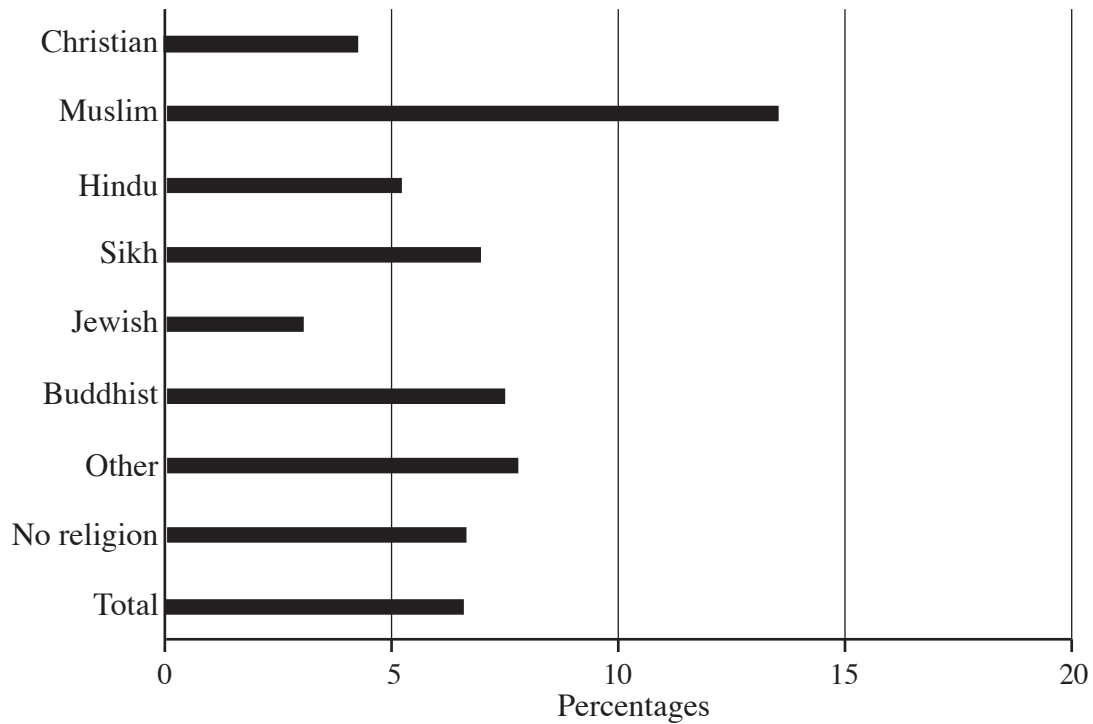
A survey of 1,003 Muslim people conducted between July 2006 and January 2007, found that 62% of Muslim young people aged 16 to 24 feel they have as much in common with non-Muslims as Muslims, compared to 71% of 55+ year olds.

One recent survey has found younger Muslims to be inspired by **fundamentalism**. Results from other surveys are not conclusive. Only 37% of 16-24 year olds would prefer to live under Islamic or Sharia law compared to 17% of 55+ years olds. However, 74% of 16-24 year olds would prefer Muslim women to choose to wear the veil, compared to only 28% of 55+ year olds.

Adapted from The National Youth Agency website July 2007

Item B

Labour Market: male unemployment rates in the UK by religion



Adapted from the National Statistics website

- (a) Explain what is meant by the term **fundamentalism**. [10]
- (b) (i) Using **Item A**, summarise what you learn about the attitudes and beliefs of young Muslims in Britain. [10]
- (ii) Using **Item B**, identify patterns in the relationship between religious affiliation and unemployment rates. [10]
- (c) Identify and explain the relationship between age and religious beliefs and practices. [25]
- (d) Discuss the extent to which Durkheim's view of religion is relevant to modern Britain. [45]