



GCE AS/A level

1352/01

SOCIOLOGY – SY2

UNIT 2: Understanding Culture

A.M. TUESDAY, 21 May 2013

1½ hours

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

You will need a WJEC 20 page answer booklet (pink), which has been specifically designed for this examination paper. No other style of answer booklet should be used. Should you run out of space, use a standard 4 page continuation booklet.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen. Do not use gel pen or correction fluid.

Answer **question 1** and **one** other question.

Use both sides of the paper. Write only within the white areas of the book.

Write the question number in the two boxes in the left hand margin at the start of each answer. Leave at least two line spaces between each answer.

You are advised to divide your time according to the mark allocation given.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

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

You are reminded that assessment will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

Credit will be given for reference to recent public debate and research publications.

Compulsory

1. Look at the item below and answer the following questions.

Gang leader for a day

Venkatesh, a Sociologist, was a student in Chicago who was fascinated by life on the most deprived housing estates and tried to study how people lived. He began his study by attempting quantitative research but this was not effective.

He then decided to conduct an **ethnographic study** and began to 'hang out' with a gang, the Black Kings. He interviewed people at all levels and participated in the life of the group. Eventually, he was allowed to act as gang leader for one day by the gang captain and became a full participant observer in the group. While the gang talked to him in detail, other people on the housing estates avoided him and his questions.

(Adapted from Gang Leader for a Day by Sudhir Venkatesh)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 1 |
|---|---|
- Using material from the item and elsewhere, explain the full meaning of the term **ethnographic study**. [10]
- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
|---|---|
- With reference to the item and sociological studies, identify and assess the strengths and weaknesses of participant observation. [20]

Choose **one** question from the following options.

Either,

2.

Education

2	1
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 Describe and explain functions of the education system. [20]

2	2
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 Discuss explanations of differences in gender attainment in education within the UK. [40]

Or,

3.

Religion

3	1
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 Describe and explain characteristics of New Religious Movements (NRM). [20]

3	2
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 Discuss whether religion acts as a form of control over women. [40]

Or,

4.

Mass Media

4	1
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 Describe and explain the characteristics of moral panics. [20]

4	2
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 Discuss explanations of the effects of the mass media on audiences. [40]