



GCE A level

1354/01

SOCIOLOGY – SY4

UNIT 4: Understanding Social Divisions

A.M. MONDAY, 16 June 2014

2 hours

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

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

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

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

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

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

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.

Crystal and Spiritual Healers

Stuart McLean was interested in the role of complementary medicine in contemporary society. Alternative medicines are widely available and people can choose from a range of treatments. He used an ethnographic approach to study a healing centre in the north of England which included **participant observation**. Although people knew that he was an academic researcher McLean was accepted as a healing trainee and over the course of a year he became fully incorporated into the life of the centre. He attended a range of healing sessions, courses and training sessions.

*Adapted from Blundell, J. and Griffiths, J. (2002) Sociology since 1995,
Lewes: Connect Publications*

- (a) Identify and explain **two** reasons why the researcher decided to use **participant observation** as a method in his research. [10]
- (b) As an A Level Sociology student you have been asked to design a research project to collect **qualitative data** on attitudes to complementary medicine. Your sample should be taken from adults living in your area.
- Outline **each** stage of your research design explaining the reasons for your choices at **each** stage.
 - Identify some of the problems that may occur and their impact on the quality of the data collected. [30]

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

Understanding World Sociology

Either,

2. (a) Identify **two** areas of life, **one** from the developing and **one** from the developed world where there is inequality. Illustrate your answer with reference to evidence from **each** area identified. [20]
- (b) Evaluate the view that aid can do little to solve the problems of the developing world. [30]

Or,

3. (a) Identify **two** areas of life, **one** from the developing and **one** from the developed world where there is ethnic inequality. Illustrate your answer with reference to evidence from **each** area identified. [20]
- (b) Evaluate the usefulness of Marxist explanations for inequalities in the developing world. [30]

Understanding Social Inequality

Either,

4. (a) Identify **two** areas of life in the contemporary UK where there is evidence of inequality. Illustrate your answer with reference to evidence for **each** area identified. [20]
- (b) Evaluate sociological explanations for gender inequalities in the contemporary UK. [30]

Or,

5. (a) Identify **two** areas of life in the contemporary UK where there is evidence of gender inequality. Illustrate your answer with reference to evidence for **each** area identified. [20]
- (b) Evaluate the view that social inequality is inevitable and functional. [30]

END OF PAPER