



GCE A Level

1354/01



S16-1354-01

SOCIOLOGY – SY4

UNIT 4: Understanding Social Divisions

P.M. THURSDAY, 23 June 2016

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.

Young People and Politics

Researchers White, Bruce and Ritchie carried out a qualitative study with the aim of gaining an understanding of the reasons why so many young people seem to have very little interest in politics. They used **focus groups** to collect their data. After careful analysis of the data collected in the focus group sessions, they found that young people regarded politics as dull and irrelevant. The researchers also found that the young people had few opportunities to get involved in the political process and felt excluded from it.

Source: White, C. Bruce, S. and Ritchie, J. (2000) Young Peoples' Political Interest and Engagement Amongst 14-24 years olds. York: J Rowntree Foundation

- (a) Identify and explain **two** reasons why researchers decided to use **focus groups** in this research. [10]
- (b) As an A Level Sociology student you have been asked to design a research project to collect **quantitative data** on the subject choices of male and female students at GCSE and A level. Your sample should be representative of students 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) There is evidence of gender inequality in the developing and developed world. Provide examples of this from **one** area of life in the developed world and **one** from the developing world with reference to appropriate evidence in **each** case to support your examples. [20]
- (b) Discuss the view that aid is not the solution to social inequality in the developing world. [30]

Or,

3. (a) There is evidence of ethnic inequality in the developing and developed world. Provide examples of this from **one** area of life in the developed world and **one** from the developing world with reference to appropriate evidence in **each** case to support your examples. [20]
- (b) Evaluate the usefulness of World Systems Theory to our understanding of social inequality in the developing world. [30]

Understanding Social Inequality

Either,

4. (a) There is evidence of gender inequality in the contemporary UK. Provide examples of this from **two** areas of life in the contemporary UK with reference to appropriate evidence in **each** case to support your examples. [20]
- (b) Discuss the view that social inequality is inevitable and functional. [30]

Or,

5. (a) There is evidence of inequality in the contemporary UK. Provide examples of this from **two** areas of life in the contemporary UK with reference to appropriate evidence in **each** case to support your examples. [20]
- (b) Evaluate the usefulness of sociological explanations of ethnic inequality in the contemporary UK. [30]

END OF PAPER