

General Certificate of Education
January 2006
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



SOCIAL SCIENCE: CITIZENSHIP
Unit 3 The Citizen, Society and the Community

SSC3

Wednesday 18 January 2006 9.00 am to 10.00 am

For this paper you must have:

- an 8-page answer book

Time allowed: 1 hour

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is SSC3.
- Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want marked.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- The marks for part questions are shown in brackets.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers. All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in all answers.

Advice

- You are advised to read through the examination paper before you attempt the questions.
- Where appropriate, you should use local and/or national and/or international examples and/or case studies.

Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

Each question carries 30 marks.

1 Read **Sources A** and **B** below and answer parts (a) to (c) which follow.

Source A

Some people have claimed that there is an ‘underclass’ in the UK. Although this ‘underclass’ has been defined in different ways, it is typically characterised by poverty, low wages and *a culture of welfare dependency*. Members of the ‘underclass’ experience poorer life chances in relation to health, education and employment. Groups most likely to be part of the ‘underclass’ include the elderly, some minority ethnic communities, the disabled and lone parent families.

Source B

In 1999, the Government made a commitment to end child poverty. It brought in a range of policies to try to achieve this aim and to reduce poverty in general. These included:

- higher rates of welfare benefits. There were significant increases in the amount paid through benefit for children. These increased by as much as 118 % for the first child, well above the rate of inflation;
- Educational Maintenance Allowances. These were phased in from 1999, giving children aged 16 plus who attend school or college up to £30 per week;
- Sure Start. This was given a budget of £500 million to provide educational and health care support for families in disadvantaged areas. In 2001 it reached about one-third of all families living in poverty;
- a National Minimum Wage. This was introduced in 1998. [By 2004 it was £4.85 per hour for people aged 22 and over.]

Source: adapted from J LEWIS, R LISTER & J MILLAR, ‘Ending Child Poverty: What is happening in the UK?’, www.impactresearch.org/documents/endingchild.pdf, May 2001

Your answers should refer to the sources as appropriate, but you should also include other relevant information.

- (a) Briefly explain what is meant by *a culture of welfare dependency* (**Source A**). (4 marks)
- (b) Briefly examine some of the reasons why some groups of people are more likely to become part of an ‘underclass’. (10 marks)
- (c) ‘Poverty will always be with us. Government policies will never eliminate it.’ Assess this view. (16 marks)

EITHER

- 2 (a) Briefly examine, using examples, ways in which local pressure groups use the media to achieve their aims. *(10 marks)*
- (b) 'Anti-discrimination laws in Britain have failed to reduce discrimination against groups such as women, minority ethnic communities and disabled people.'
Assess this claim. *(20 marks)*

OR

- 3 (a) Briefly examine the impact of discrimination on individuals. *(10 marks)*
- (b) Assess different explanations of the extent to which the media influence people's attitudes and behaviour. *(20 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page