

General Certificate of Education
June 2006
Advanced Level Examination



SOCIOLOGY
Unit 6

SCY6

Wednesday 28 June 2006 9.00 am to 10.30 am

For this paper you must have:

- a 12-page answer book

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

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 SCY6.
- This paper is divided into **two** Sections. Choose **one** Section and answer **all** parts of the question from that Section.
- 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 questions (or part questions) are shown in brackets.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers. Part questions carrying 12 or more marks should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in these answers.

Choose **one** Section and answer **all** parts of the question from that Section.

SECTION A: CRIME AND DEVIANCE

Total for this section: 60 marks

- 1** Read **Item A** and answer parts (a) to (c) which follow.

Item A

There are striking age differences in the patterns of crime, in terms both of offending and of victimisation. For example, crime rates are at their highest among young adults, and much sociological research has attempted to discover the reasons for this, particularly in the study of delinquent gangs of young men.

Similarly, the young often have a high risk of being victims of crime. For example, young men aged 16–24 have the highest risk of being victims of violent crime while, among 12–15 year olds, a third have been assaulted at least once, a fifth have had property stolen, and a fifth have suffered harassment from an adult. However, the group with the highest risk of being murdered are infants aged under 1 year. People over 60 also report high rates of victimisation, with 1 in 20 having been subject to verbal or physical abuse. 5
10

- (a) Identify and briefly explain **one** advantage **and one** disadvantage of using self-report studies in the study of crime. (8 marks)

This part of the question includes assessment of your understanding of the connections between Crime and Deviance and sociological methods.

- (b) Using material from **Item A** and elsewhere, examine the relationship between age and patterns of crime. In your answer, make reference to material from **two or more** of the following areas: families and households; health; mass media; education; wealth, poverty and welfare; work and leisure; power and politics; religion; world sociology. (12 marks)

This part of the question includes assessment of your understanding of the connections between Crime and Deviance and other substantive topic(s) you have studied.

- (c) “Since the mid-1950s, the number of recorded crimes in England and Wales has risen from about half a million a year to around 5 million today.”

Assess sociological explanations of the increase in recorded crime in the last 50 years. (40 marks)

This part of the question includes assessment of your understanding of the connections between Crime and Deviance and sociological theory.

SECTION B: STRATIFICATION AND DIFFERENTIATION

Total for this section: 60 marks

- 2 Read **Item B** and answer parts (a) to (c) which follow.

Item B

An ethnic group is one whose members share certain characteristics, such as a common language, religion or geographical origin, and who see themselves as a distinct group. Statistics on ethnicity are usually gathered by asking individuals to identify themselves as members of a particular ethnic group. For example, the Census gives a list of different ethnic categories and asks respondents to place themselves in one of these. 5

Often, ethnicity is not just about difference, but also about inequality. For example, members of some ethnic groups are on average poorer and have worse health, housing and educational opportunities than others. It is likely that much of this disadvantage is the result of ‘racial’ or ethnic discrimination practised by members of other ethnic groups. However, sociologists face many problems in trying to measure the extent of such discrimination. 10

- (a) Identify and briefly explain:

(i) **one** way in which gender differences are important to the understanding of **one** of the following areas: education; wealth, poverty and welfare; work and leisure. (4 marks)

and

(ii) **one** way in which gender differences are important to the understanding of **one** of the following areas: religion; power and politics; world sociology. (4 marks)

This part of the question includes assessment of your understanding of the connections between Stratification and Differentiation and other substantive topic(s) you have studied.

- (b) Using material from **Item B** and elsewhere, examine the problems of defining ethnicity and measuring the extent of ethnic discrimination. (12 marks)

This part of the question includes assessment of your understanding of the connections between Stratification and Differentiation and sociological methods.

- (c) “Class, status and power are all important aspects of social stratification, but class remains the most important and fundamental of the three.”

Assess this view. (40 marks)

This part of the question includes assessment of your understanding of the connections between Stratification and Differentiation and sociological theory.

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page