

General Certificate of Education
June 2008
Advanced Level Examination



SOCIOLOGY
Unit 5

SC5W

Thursday 5 June 2008 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

For this paper you must have:

- a 12-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use black ink or black 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 SC5W.
- This paper contains **two** Sections. Answer the question in **Section A** and **one** question from **Section B**.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- The marks for questions (or part questions) are shown in brackets.
- Questions 1(d), 2 and 3 should be answered in continuous prose. In these questions you will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

SECTION A: THEORY AND METHODS

Answer **all** parts of this Section.

Total for this section: 20 marks

- 1** Read **Items A** and **B** and answer parts (a) to (d) that follow.

Item A

Social surveys are an important means of gathering local, national and international information. They cover a wide range of social, political and economic issues of interest to government, the professions, academics and others who need to obtain information. In the United Kingdom there are regular national surveys of social issues, usually based on the use of questionnaires or structured interviews. These surveys contribute to the considerable volume of official statistics now available to the researcher. For instance, the General Household Survey has been conducted annually since 1971. 5

However, while surveys might provide a great deal of useful information, some sociologists question the validity of survey data. 10

Source: adapted from BILTON et al, *Introductory Sociology*, 2002, Palgrave Macmillan.
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Item B

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- (a) Briefly explain what is meant by ‘validity’ (**Item A**, line 10). (2 marks)
- (b) Identify and briefly explain **two** reasons why a researcher might choose to use the survey method, **apart from** those referred to in **Item A**. (4 marks)
- (c) Identify and briefly explain **two** problems researchers might face when using official statistics (**Item A**, line 6). (4 marks)
- (d) Briefly examine the usefulness of experiments in sociological research. (10 marks)

SECTION B: THEORY AND METHODS

Answer **one** question from this Section.

Total for this section: 40 marks

EITHER

2 Assess the usefulness of conflict theories in understanding society today. *(40 marks)*

OR

3 Evaluate different views of the relationship between sociology and social policy. *(40 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page