



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
January 2009

Sociology

SCLY2

Unit 2

Thursday 15 January 2009 9.00 am to 11.00 am

For this paper you must have:

- an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 2 hours

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 SCLY2.
- This paper is divided into **two** Sections.
Choose **one** Section and answer **all** the questions from that Section.
Do **not** answer questions from more than one Section.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work that you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The marks for part-questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 90.
- Questions and part-questions carrying 12 or more marks should be answered in continuous prose. In these questions and part-questions you will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- Question 1 **or** Question 4 – You are advised to spend approximately 50 minutes on this question.
- Question 2 **or** Question 5 – You are advised to spend approximately 30 minutes on this question.
- Question 3 **or** Question 6 – You are advised to spend approximately 40 minutes on this question.

Choose **either** Section A **or** Section B and answer **all** the questions from that Section.

SECTION A: EDUCATION WITH RESEARCH METHODS

You are advised to spend approximately 50 minutes on Question 1
 You are advised to spend approximately 30 minutes on Question 2
 You are advised to spend approximately 40 minutes on Question 3

Total for this section: 90 marks

1 Read **Item A** below and answer parts (a) to (d) that follow.

Item A

There are clear differences in the educational achievement of different ethnic groups. For example, in 2006, 73% of pupils of Indian origin gained 5 A*–C passes at GCSE compared with 56% of white and 47% of black pupils.

Sociologists are interested in the causes of these inequalities in educational achievement. Some argue that ethnic differences in educational achievement are primarily the result of school factors. For example, Wright (1992) found that teachers perceived and treated minority ethnic pupils differently from white pupils. Afro-Caribbean boys were often expected to behave badly and they received a disproportionate amount of negative teacher attention. 5

Other sociologists claim that non-school factors such as family structure and home background have a greater impact on the educational achievement of different ethnic groups. 10

- (a) Explain what is meant by the term ‘cultural capital’. (2 marks)
- (b) Suggest **three** reasons for gender differences in subject choice. (6 marks)
- (c) Outline some of the policies introduced by governments to create an education market in the United Kingdom. (12 marks)
- (d) Using material from **Item A** and elsewhere, assess the claim that ‘ethnic differences in educational achievement are primarily the result of school factors’ (**Item A**, lines 5–6). (20 marks)

- 2 This question requires you to **apply** your knowledge and understanding of sociological research methods to the study of this **particular** issue in **education**.

Read **Item B** below and answer the question that follows.

Item B

Investigating boys' underachievement

Although the educational achievement of both boys and girls has risen in recent years, there has been growing concern that boys are underachieving compared with girls.

Some investigations into boys' underachievement start by using official statistics to identify and compare educational performance over time. This is usually done by looking at the examination results of boys and girls. Sociologists are also interested in identifying gender differences in achievement in different subjects. For example, in 2004, 67% of girls achieved an A*–C grade in GCSE English compared with only 53% of boys. 5

Sociologists not only want to know the nature and extent of boys' underachievement – they also want to understand the reasons why boys appear to do less well than girls. Therefore, some sociologists use unstructured interviews to explore the attitudes and feelings of male pupils towards school. Doing this enables the sociologist to see if, for example, laddish subcultures or teachers' attitudes to boys affect their achievement. 10

Using material from **Item B** and elsewhere, assess the strengths and limitations of **one** of the following methods for investigating boys' underachievement:

EITHER (i) official statistics

OR (ii) unstructured interviews. (20 marks)

- 3 This question permits you to draw examples from **any areas** of sociology with which you are familiar.

(a) Explain what is meant by the term 'longitudinal' study. (2 marks)

(b) Identify **two** sampling techniques used in sociological research. (4 marks)

(c) Suggest **two** disadvantages of using media reports in sociological research. (4 marks)

(d) Examine the problems some sociologists may face when using experiments in their research. (20 marks)

Turn over for Section B

Turn over ►

SECTION B: HEALTH WITH RESEARCH METHODS

You are advised to spend approximately 50 minutes on Question 4

You are advised to spend approximately 30 minutes on Question 5

You are advised to spend approximately 40 minutes on Question 6

Total for this section: 90 marks

4 Read **Item C** and answer parts (a) to (d) that follow.

Item C

According to functionalist sociologists, the medical profession needs to attract some of the most intelligent and talented members of society. For this to happen, the role of doctor must be highly rewarded in terms of money and status. In return, doctors have to undergo long periods of training, on a relatively low income, to develop their specialist medical knowledge. They also have to accept a professional code of conduct that requires them to act in a fully altruistic and unselfish way, to put patients first, and to treat all patients fairly.

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However, other sociologists argue that doctors maintain their position by controlling access to the medical profession.

- (a) Explain what is meant by the term 'morbidity'. *(2 marks)*
- (b) Suggest **three** examples of ways in which the body can be seen as a social construct. *(6 marks)*
- (c) Outline some of the ways in which mental illness is socially defined. *(12 marks)*
- (d) Using material from **Item C** and elsewhere, assess the functionalist view of the medical profession. *(20 marks)*

- 5 This question requires you to **apply** your knowledge and understanding of sociological research methods to the study of this **particular** issue in **health**.

Read **Item D** below and answer the question that follows.

Item D

Investigating ethnicity and access to health care

The NHS is legally required to provide health care services to all people who need them, regardless of their gender, age or ethnic background. However, there is some evidence that the NHS does not meet the needs of Britain's diverse population.

Department of Health researchers have used questionnaires to survey the attitudes of patients to health care. These questionnaires reveal a consistent pattern of higher levels of dissatisfaction with NHS services among some minority ethnic groups when compared with the white majority. For example, respondents from Pakistani, Indian and Bangladeshi backgrounds report significantly poorer experiences in hospital than White British or Irish respondents. 5

Sociologists not only want to know the nature and extent of inequalities in access to health care. They also want to understand the reasons why certain ethnic groups appear to have poorer access to health care than others. Therefore, some sociologists use unstructured interviews to explore the attitudes and feelings of patients and health care providers. This enables the sociologist to see if, for example, racism or language differences affect access to health care. 10

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Using material from **Item D** and elsewhere, assess the strengths and limitations of **one** of the following methods for investigating the relationship between ethnicity and access to health care:

EITHER (i) questionnaires

OR (ii) unstructured interviews. (20 marks)

- 6 This question permits you to draw examples from **any areas** of sociology with which you are familiar.

(a) Explain what is meant by the term 'longitudinal' study. (2 marks)

(b) Suggest **two** advantages of using overt observation in sociological research. (4 marks)

(c) Suggest **two** problems with using field experiments in sociological research. (4 marks)

(d) Examine the problems some sociologists may find when using personal documents and public documents in their research. (20 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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