



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
January 2013

## Sociology

## SCLY2

### Unit 2

Thursday 24 January 2013 9.00 am to 11.00 am

**For this paper you must have:**

- an AQA 12-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 in that section.
- Do **not** answer questions from more than one section.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

### Information

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

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

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**Section A: Education with Research Methods**

You are advised to spend approximately 50 minutes on questions 

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You are advised to spend approximately 30 minutes on question 

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You are advised to spend approximately 40 minutes on questions 

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 to 

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**Total for this section: 90 marks**

**Education**

Read **Item A** below and answer questions 

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 that follow.

**Item A**

According to some sociologists, the main function of the education system is to reproduce and legitimise social inequalities. For example, they argue that schools systematically fail the majority of working-class pupils, whose destiny is to end up in the same kind of working-class jobs as their parents. This reproduces the class structure from one generation to the next. The education system then legitimises these inequalities by claiming that every pupil has an equal chance to succeed.

However, some critics argue that schooling is in fact meritocratic and that failure is the fault of the individual, not of the education system.

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 Explain what is meant by the term 'labelling'. *(2 marks)*
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 Suggest **three** examples of ways in which school is organised that may be ethnocentric. *(6 marks)*
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 Outline some of the factors within the education system that may have contributed to improvements in girls' achievement. *(12 marks)*
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 Using material from **Item A** and elsewhere, assess the view that the main function of the education system is to reproduce and legitimise social inequalities. *(20 marks)*

## Methods in Context

The following 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 the role of linguistic deprivation in educational underachievement

Linguistic deprivation is a lack of the language skills needed for educational success; some sociologists see it as resulting from inadequate socialisation. They regard it as the main cause of underachievement among the working class and some ethnic minorities, who often have negative feelings about education. However, critics argue that this view unfairly blames the pupils for their own educational failure, rather than the school and its middle-class values.

Some sociologists may use self-completion written questionnaires to investigate the role of linguistic deprivation in underachievement. These can allow respondents to answer anonymously questions about issues such as family life or their experience of education. Pupils may take questionnaires for completion at home, which removes the need for respondents to interact with middle-class researchers. However, questionnaires often have very low response rates.

Other sociologists may use unstructured interviews to investigate the role of linguistic deprivation in underachievement. These can give pupils the opportunity they need to express their thoughts fully and in their own words. Unstructured interviews also allow the researcher to explore sensitive issues such as difficulties with school. However, unstructured interviews are often time-consuming and researchers need somewhere to conduct them.

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Using material from **Item B** and elsewhere, assess the strengths and limitations of **one** of the following methods for investigating the role of linguistic deprivation in educational underachievement:

**EITHER** self-completion questionnaires

**OR** unstructured interviews.

*(20 marks)*

**Section A continues on the next page**

**Turn over ►**

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**Research Methods**

The following questions permit you to draw examples from **any areas** of sociology with which you are familiar.

- 0 6** Explain what is meant by the term 'interview schedule'. *(2 marks)*
- 0 7** Suggest **two** reasons why sociologists sometimes use a pilot study as part of their research. *(4 marks)*
- 0 8** Suggest **two** problems of using official statistics in sociological research. *(4 marks)*
- 0 9** Examine the view that theoretical issues are the most important factor influencing sociologists' choice of research methods. *(20 marks)*

## Section B: Health with Research Methods

You are advised to spend approximately 50 minutes on questions 

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You are advised to spend approximately 30 minutes on question 

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You are advised to spend approximately 40 minutes on questions 

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**Total for this section: 90 marks**

### Health

Read **Item C** below and answer questions 

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 that follow.

#### Item C

There are important gender differences in health chances, in terms of both morbidity and mortality. For example, life expectancy and death rates show that, in developed countries, women generally live longer than men. By contrast, women report higher rates of illness, anxiety and depression, and lower rates of well-being, especially when they have young children.

There are also gender differences in terms of health care. For example, women are more likely than men to be admitted to hospital. However, when we exclude conditions associated with reproduction, the gender difference in admissions disappears in the 15–44 age-group, and admission rates among the other age-groups are actually higher for males than for females.

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 Explain what is meant by the ‘social selection’ explanation of the relationship between social class and health. *(2 marks)*
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 Suggest **three** examples of ways in which regional differences in the United Kingdom affect health chances. *(6 marks)*
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 Outline some of the ways in which health and illness are socially constructed. *(12 marks)*
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 Using material from **Item C** and elsewhere, assess sociological explanations of gender differences in health chances and health care. *(20 marks)*

**Section B continues on the next page**

**Turn over ►**

## Methods in Context

The following 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 interactions between nurses and patients

Nurses work in a wide variety of settings and specialisms, and with many types of patients. Their job often involves high levels of physical intimacy with patients' bodily functions, as well as dealing with people who are dying and those in severe pain or distress. Many nurses are members of minority ethnic groups and most are female. Many face harassment or prejudice from patients. From 2013, entry to the profession will be restricted to those with a degree in nursing.

Some sociologists may use participant observation to investigate interactions between nurses and patients. It can give the researcher first-hand experience as well as a 'behind-the-scenes' view of nurses and their attitudes. Participant observation also enables the researcher to approach a subject about which they may know little with an open mind rather than a ready-made hypothesis. However, the participant observer cannot easily obtain a picture of the full range of interactions between nurses and patients.

Other sociologists may use self-completion written questionnaires to investigate interactions between nurses and patients. Questionnaires can allow researchers to correlate factors such as nurses' and patients' age, gender and ethnicity with the kinds of interactions they have. Patients may welcome the opportunity to express their feelings about their treatment anonymously. However, ethical issues may prevent nurses from answering some questions about their interactions with patients.

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Using material from **Item D** and elsewhere, assess the strengths and limitations of **one** of the following methods for investigating interactions between nurses and patients:

**EITHER**      participant observation

**OR**            self-completion questionnaires.

*(20 marks)*

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**Research Methods**

The following questions permit you to draw examples from **any areas** of sociology with which you are familiar.

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 Explain what is meant by the term 'interview schedule'. *(2 marks)*
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 Suggest **two** reasons why sociologists sometimes use a pilot study as part of their research. *(4 marks)*
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 Suggest **two** problems of using official statistics in sociological research. *(4 marks)*
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 Examine the view that theoretical issues are the most important factor influencing sociologists' choice of research methods. *(20 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**There are no questions printed on this page**