

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS**

**Advanced Subsidiary GCE**

**SOCIOLOGY**

Sociological Research Skills

**2534**

Tuesday

**16 MAY 2006**

Afternoon

1 hour

Additional materials:

8 page Answer Book

4 page continuation Answer Book

**TIME** 1 hour

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- Write your name, Centre number and candidate number in the spaces provided on the answer book.
- Answer all parts of the question.
- Read each question carefully to make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

- The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is **60**.
- You will be awarded marks for the quality of written communication where an answer requires a piece of extended writing.

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**This question paper consists of 3 printed pages and 1 blank page.**

Study Item A and Item B carefully, then answer all parts of the question (a) to (d). You should spend approximately 30 minutes answering parts (a) to (c) and approximately 30 minutes answering part (d).

### ITEM A

The bar chart below shows the results of two surveys which were carried out: the first asked a sample of teenagers about why they called helplines; the second asked a sample of adults, who were parents, what they thought teenagers called a helpline about.

What worries teenagers survey, 2002



*Source: Adapted from 'Nowhere to turn survey', Get connected helpline, 2002*

**ITEM B**

You have been asked to consider a research design in terms of its reliability, validity, representativeness and generalisability. The research is about investigating the experiences of some 18–24 year old single people who are choosing to house-share with other young adults, rather than live alone or with parents. The research design consists of:

- Using recent Census data to select a city with a relatively high proportion of 18–24 year olds;
- Selecting a sample through contacting ‘room to let’ adverts in local newspapers and letting agencies;
- Carrying out group interviews with house-sharers, focusing on their experiences of sharing;
- Issuing structured questionnaires to the house sharers to examine individual reasons for sharing a house.

**Questions**

- (a) Briefly explain the concept of ‘validity’. [6]
- (b) Using **Item A**, identify **two** main differences between what parents think teenagers ring helplines about and why teenagers actually ring helplines. [8]
- (c) Using **Item B**, identify **one** strength and **one** weakness of the research design. [16]
- (d) Outline and assess **one** sociological research method of collecting information on whether concerns about children are different between mothers and fathers. [30]

[Total: 60 marks]

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