

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS

Advanced GCE

SOCIOLOGY

2539

Social Inequality and Difference

Wednesday **28 JUNE 2006** Morning 1 hour 30 minutes

Additional materials:
16 page Answer Book
4 page continuation Answer Book

TIME 1 hour 30 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name, Centre number and candidate number in the spaces provided on the answer book.
- Answer **one** question. Each question has **five** parts (a) to (e).
- Read the whole question paper 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 **90**.
- You will be awarded marks for the quality of written communication where an answer requires a piece of extended writing.

This question paper consists of 5 printed pages and 3 blank pages.

Answer question 1 or question 2. Each question has five parts.

You will be assessed on your understanding of the connections between sociological thought and methods of enquiry as they apply to the study of social inequality and difference. You should therefore take every opportunity to include references to aspects of social inequality that you have studied throughout your course.

1 Read the following data carefully and then answer parts (a) to (e).

A graph has been removed due to third party copyright restrictions

Details:

A graph showing the flexible working arrangements from a sample of working parents.

Source: Work-Life Balance 2000 Employee Survey, ERSC, 2000

ITEM B

An extract has been removed due to third party copyright restrictions

Details:

An extract from *The New Feminist* about 'Mrs Typical', 1999. Explaining the stereotypical working mother.

Source: Adapted from The New Feminism, Natasha Walter, Virago 1999.

- (a) Using **Item A**, identify the **two** types of working arrangements showing the smallest difference between mothers and fathers. [6]
- (b) Using **Item B**, identify **two** ways in which the 'ghost of Mrs Typical' may influence a woman's life. [6]
- (c) Briefly explain **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of using unstructured interviews when researching the employment experience of women who combine paid work with looking after their children. [12]
- (d) Using your wider sociological knowledge, outline the evidence that most women are disadvantaged in the contemporary UK. [22]
- (e) Outline and assess Feminist explanations of gender inequalities in the workplace. [44]

[Total: 90 marks]

- 2 Read the following data carefully and then answer parts (a) to (e).

ITEM A

Changes in Self-Assigned Class Identity
Between 1955 and 1999

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Details:

A graph showing changes in self-assigned class identity between
1955 and 1999

Source: A Travis, the Guardian 1999

ITEM B

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Details:

An extract about the upper class in Britain from 'Class in Modern Britain'
by K. Roberts. ISBN: 0333793110

Source: Adapted from K. Roberts; Class in Modern Britain, Palgrave 2001.

- (a) Using Item A identify the two main changes in self-assigned class identity between 1955 and 1999. [6]
- (b) Using Item B identify two ways in which the upper class differ from other social classes. [6]
- (c) Briefly explain two difficulties sociologists may experience when researching the strength of class identity in the contemporary UK. [12]
- (d) Using your wider sociological knowledge, outline the evidence that a distinct upper class exists in the contemporary UK. [22]
- (e) Outline and assess Marxist explanations of the changing class structure in the contemporary UK. [44]

[Total: 90 marks]

Copyright Acknowledgement:

Item A: Graph © Work-Life Balance 2000 Employee Survey, ERSC, 2000.
Item B: Adapted from The New Feminism, Natasha Walter, Virago 1999.

OCR has made every effort to trace the copyright holders of items used in this Question paper, but if we have inadvertently overlooked any, we apologise.