

**ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY GCE
SOCIOLOGY**

Sociological Research Skills

WEDNESDAY 9 JANUARY 2008

2534

Afternoon
Time: 1 hour

Additional materials: Answer Booklet (8 pages)
Continuation Answer Booklet (4 pages)



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name in capital letters, your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided on the separate Answer Booklet.
- Read each question carefully and make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Answer **all** parts of the question.
- Write your answer on the separate answer booklet provided.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

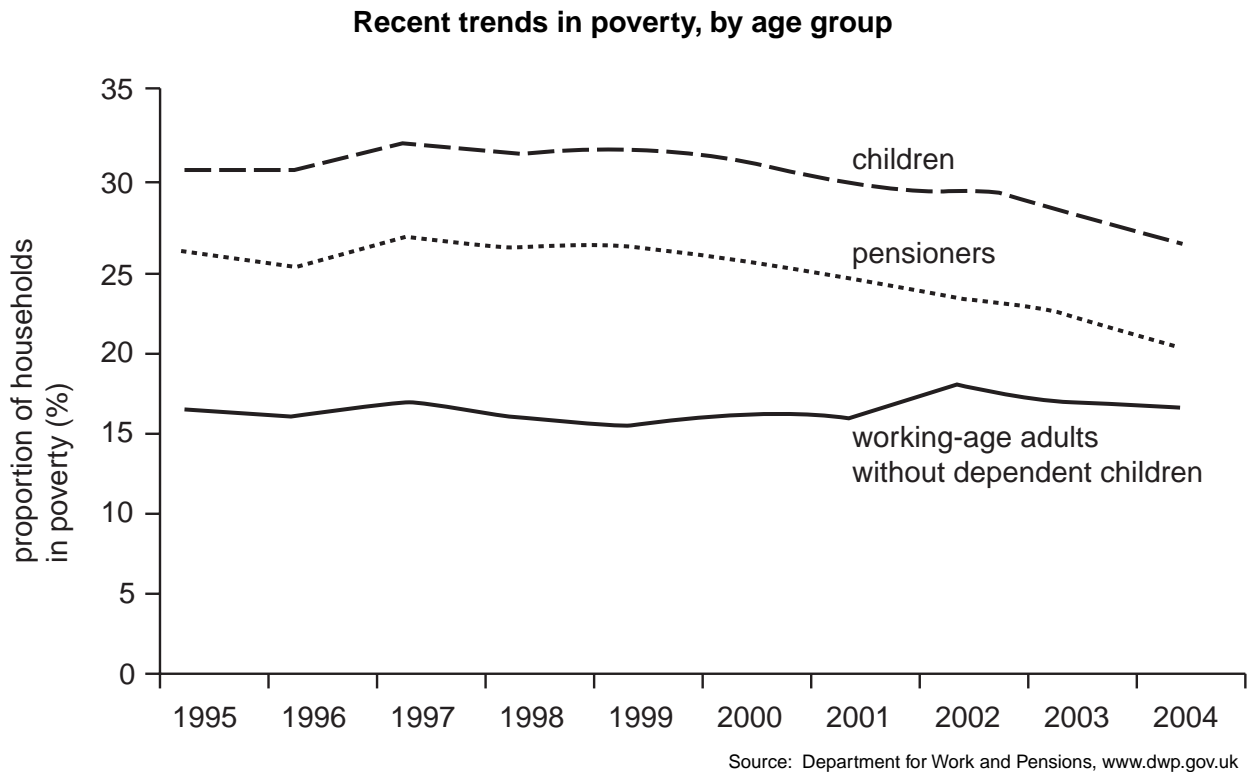
- The number of marks for each question is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is **60**.
- You will be awarded marks for the quality of written communication where an answer requires a piece of extended writing.

This document consists of **4** printed pages.

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



ITEM B

You have been asked to consider a research design in terms of its reliability, validity and representativeness. The research is about the experiences and problems which parents face in bringing up their children in disadvantaged communities. The design consists of:

- Selecting four neighbourhoods in a city which are all characterised by high levels of disadvantage (high unemployment, crime and children receiving free school meals);
- Gaining access to a number of families through the main schools in these neighbourhoods;
- Carrying out focus group interviews with a volunteer sample of parents from these schools;
- Issuing structured questionnaires to both parents and children.

Questions

- (a) Briefly explain the meaning of the term 'reliability'. [6]
- (b) Using **Item A**, identify **two** main trends in the proportion of households living in poverty, according to age group, between 1995 and 2004. [8]
- (c) Using **Item B**, identify and explain **one** strength and **one** weakness of the research design. [16]
- (d) Outline and assess **one** sociological research method of collecting information from teachers on the benefits to children of attending after school homework clubs. [30]

[Total: 60 marks]

Copyright Acknowledgements:

Item A Source: Department for Work and Pensions, www.dwp.gov.uk. Crown copyright material is reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO and the Queen's Printer for Scotland.

Permission to reproduce items where third-party owned material protected by copyright is included has been sought and cleared where possible. Every reasonable effort has been made by the publisher (UCLES) to trace copyright holders, but if any items requiring clearance have unwittingly been included, the publisher will be pleased to make amends at the earliest possible opportunity.

OCR is part of the Cambridge Assessment Group. Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which is itself a department of the University of Cambridge.