

**ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY GCE  
SOCIOLOGY**

Sociological Research Skills

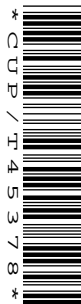
**TUESDAY 13 MAY 2008**

**2534**

Morning  
Time: 1 hour

**Additional materials (enclosed):** Answer Booklet (8 page)

**Additional materials (required):**  
None



**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- Write your name in capital letters, your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided on the 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

The table below shows the percentage of young carers\* providing different caring tasks in 1995 and 2003.

| Caring task                                  | Percentage of young carers |      |
|--|----------------------------|------|
|  | 1995                       | 2003 |
| Domestic (household chores)                  | 65                         | 68   |
| General nursing-type care help               | 61                         | 48   |
| Emotional support                            | 25                         | 82   |
| Intimate support (e.g. washing and dressing) | 23                         | 21   |
| Child care                                   | 11                         | 11   |

*Data from Young Carers in the UK: the 2004 report, Carers UK, 2004*

\* Young carers are defined as people under the age of 18 who are providing unpaid care by looking after an ill, frail or disabled family member, friend or partner.

**N.B.** Figures do not add up to 100% since most carers are performing several caring tasks

### ITEM B

You have been asked to consider a research design in terms of its reliability, validity and representativeness. The research is about investigating the experiences of *young carers*\* with the aim of discovering how their lives can be improved. The design consists of:

- Selecting a volunteer sample by placing an advert on the website of the charity 'Carers UK' requesting young carers to share their experiences through unstructured interviews;
- Requesting the volunteers to participate in a face to face, unstructured interview about their experiences of caring;
- Conducting a separate on-line structured questionnaire through this website to gather quantitative statistical information on young carers lives;
- Analysing secondary data collected for previous reports, which have investigated how the lives of young carers can be improved.

**Questions**

- (a) Briefly explain the meaning of the term 'quantitative' data. [6]
- (b) Using **Item A**, identify **two** main changes in the type of caring task carried out by young carers between 1995 and 2003. [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 elderly people on why they decide to go into residential care homes, rather than remain in their own homes. [30]

**[Total: 60 marks]**

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*Copyright Acknowledgements:*

Item A data                      © C Dearden & S Becker, *Young Carers in the UK: the 2004 report*, Table 5, p.7, Carers UK, 2004, [www.carersuk.org](http://www.carersuk.org)

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