



## ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY GCE SOCIOLOGY

Sociological Research Skills

# 2534

Candidates answer on the Answer Booklet

**OCR Supplied Materials:**

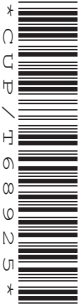
- 8 page Answer Booklet

**Other Materials Required:**

None

**Friday 9 January 2009  
Morning**

**Duration: 1 hour**



### INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name clearly in capital letters, your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided on the Answer Booklet.
- Use black ink. Pencil may be used for graphs and diagrams only.
- Read each question carefully and make sure that you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Answer **all** parts of the question.
- Do **not** write in the bar codes.

### 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.
- This document consists of **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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

In a questionnaire about national spending on scientific research, a sample of young people were asked 'Do you think that more money should be spent on each of the following?' The responses are given in the table below.

	Male	Female
<i>Percentage who think more money should be spent on:</i>	%	%
Space exploration	48	24
Trying to find life on other planets	43	27
Finding out about what makes people aggressive	37	42
Developing robots	32	12
Nuclear power	30	21

Source: H. Haste, *Science in my Future*, Nestlé Social Research Programme, 2004

### ITEM B

You have been asked to consider a research design in terms of its reliability, validity and representativeness. The research is about investigating whether girls and boys have different attitudes towards science in secondary schools. The design consists of:

- Identifying a sample of secondary schools, using a stratified sampling technique (stratified according to school type and region);
- Sending a letter to the head teachers of these secondary schools, asking for their agreement to participate and offering £200 to the school as an incentive to participate;
- Distributing self-completion questionnaires to a random sample of students in each school, asking them their views on science, technology and scientific developments.
- Carrying out group interviews with Year 11 students who have been selected for expressing a keen interest in science as a career.

**Questions**

- (a) Briefly explain the meaning of the term 'random sampling'. [6]
- (b) Using **Item A**, identify **two** main differences between males and females in terms of what they think more money should be spent on. [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 about why so few female engineering students at university subsequently become engineers. [30]

**[Total: 60 marks]**



*Copyright Acknowledgements:*

Item A                      Source: H. Haste, *Science in my Future*, Nestlé Social Research Programme, 2004. Reproduced by kind permission of Nestlé Social Research Programme.

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