



ADVANCED GCE

SOCIOLOGY

Applied Sociological Research Skills

2537

Candidates answer on the Answer Booklet

OCR Supplied Materials:

- 16 page Answer Booklet

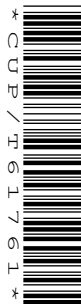
Other Materials Required:

None

Thursday 11 June 2009

Afternoon

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes



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.

Answer **all** parts (a) to (e). You are advised to spend **approximately 30 minutes** on parts (a)–(c), and **one hour** on parts (d) and (e).

Study **Item A** carefully, then answer parts (a), (b) and (c).

ITEM A

1005 students were surveyed by the Halifax Bank in July 2007 about their financial situation. The study was a large scale survey and the respondents were selected from a list of 40,000. They came from 12 regions in Britain including Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. The survey asked about the different types of debt the students had, including overdrafts, credit cards and student loans. The survey found students used a combination of methods to pay for their studies, the most common being paid work. This varied accordingly to region, 44% from the East Midlands worked whereas 67% of Scottish students worked. In Northern Ireland two thirds of students received money from their parents, in the North East it was 41%. The survey also found half of the students had debts over £7,000 and that 82% expected to leave university with debts.

The survey also looked at what students spent their money on. The results are summarised in the table below.

Student Average Weekly Expenditure

Category	Female	Male	All students
Food/provisions	£27.80	£26.10	£27.00
Cigarettes	£1.30	£2.10	£1.60
Pubs/Bars	£14.60	£19.10	£16.60
Leisure	£10.70	£11.50	£11.10
Course materials	£10.80	£9.00	£10.00
Accommodation	£63.70	£56.90	£60.70

- (a) Using **only Item A**, identify **two** reasons why it was possible to make generalisations about the data collected. [6]
- (b) Identify and explain **two** advantages of using a large scale survey to research spending money given to 11 to 16 year olds by their parents/guardians. [8]
- (c) Summarise the findings of the research in **ITEM A**. [10]

Study **Item B** carefully and then answer parts (d) and (e).

ITEM B

The careers service in your local area is interested in finding out about the employment experiences of young people in the first five years after leaving university.

You have been asked as a sociological researcher, to design a research proposal that will target a representative sample of graduates in their first five years after leaving university to find out their employment experiences during this period. You are required to collect **qualitative** data.

- (d) Outline and explain the research process that you would adopt in collecting **qualitative** data to find out the employment experiences of graduates in the first five years after leaving university. [14]
- (e) Assess the potential weaknesses of your research proposal, briefly explaining how you intend to overcome them. [22]

[Total: 60 marks]

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