

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS
ADVANCED GCE
2537
SOCIOLOGY

Applied Sociological Research Skills

THURSDAY 11 JUNE 2009: Afternoon

DURATION: 1 hour 30 minutes

SUITABLE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CANDIDATES

Candidates answer on the Answer Booklet.

OCR SUPPLIED MATERIALS:

16 page Answer Booklet

OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED:

None

READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF

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.**

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.**

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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 opposite.

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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