

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS
ADVANCED GCE**

2539

SOCIOLOGY

Social Inequality and Difference

TUESDAY 26 JANUARY 2010: Morning

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 ONE question. Each question has FIVE parts (a) to (e).**

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 90.**
- **You will be awarded marks for the quality of written communication where an answer requires a piece of extended writing.**

Answer question 1 OR question 2. Each question has FIVE parts.

You will be assessed on your understanding of the connections between sociological thought and methods of enquiry as they apply to the study of social inequality and difference. You should therefore take every opportunity to include references to aspects of social inequality that you have studied throughout your course.

Question 1 Read the following information carefully and then answer parts (a) to (e).

ITEM A

**AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS FOR EMPLOYEES
AGED 18 AND OVER, BY ETHNIC GROUP, 2000–2004.
ALL EARNINGS FIGURES IN £.**

	2000	2002	2004
White	6.76	7.51	8.00
Black	7.04	7.13	7.50
Indian	6.57	7.00	8.41
Pakistani	4.94	5.80	6.25

Source: Low Pay Commission, 2005

ITEM B

For the vast majority of young Muslims living in Britain, the religion of Islam carries real importance in their lives. Some young Muslims feel there are genuine issues of religious interpretation and practice that negatively impact on their lives, while others believe that their religion has promoted and enabled opportunities in their lives. An 18 year old Pakistani Muslim woman said ‘religion does not hinder but in fact promotes education for both males and females... these days parents encourage their children to get an education, not necessarily for job opportunities but for personal achievement, especially for girls’. A 16 year old Pakistani Muslim woman commented that ‘my parents encouraged us to do well in education because they feel we will have a better life, but I think it is also connected to status in the community and of course marriage.’

**Adapted from The Education of British South Asians, T.
Abbas, 2004**

- (a) Using ITEM A, identify the TWO ethnic groups showing the greatest increase in average hourly earnings from 2000 to 2004. [6]**
- (b) Using ITEM B, identify TWO reasons why parents may encourage their children ‘to get an education’. [6]**
- (c) Briefly explain ONE advantage and ONE disadvantage of using official statistics when researching trends in hourly rates of pay for young workers. [12]**
- (d) Using your wider sociological knowledge, outline the evidence that racism exists in the contemporary UK. [22]**
- (e) Outline and evaluate sociological explanations of ethnic disadvantage in the contemporary UK. [44]**

[Total: 90 marks]

You will be assessed on your understanding of the connections between sociological thought and methods of enquiry as they apply to the study of social inequality and difference. You should therefore take every opportunity to include references to aspects of social inequality that you have studied throughout your course.

Question 2 Read the following information carefully and then answer parts (a) to (e).

ITEM A

**APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS TO THE UK'S
TOP 100 COMPANIES BY GENDER, 2001–2007**

Appointment of Directors	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number of new female appointments	15	13	20	24	30	23	30
Number of new male appointments	113	111	129	117	149	181	152
Female % of new appointments	12	11	13	17	17	13	20

Source: Cranfield Institute (2007) Female FTSE Index and Report page 16

ITEM B

Social changes have resulted in increasingly well qualified women entering the labour market, more of whom now become managers than was the case in the past. However, the goal of equal pay between men and women remains out of reach. There are still wide differences between men's and women's pay across employment, from part-time workers to highly skilled professionals. These pay inequalities extend into other work-related areas, such as bonuses and performance-related pay. In addition, women are often illegally excluded from pension schemes. Women are also subject to social constraints: for example, being a carer means exclusion from the labour market for six times as many women as men.

Adapted from S. Weir (2006), Unequal Britain, human rights as a route to social justice, p256-257, Politico

- (a) Using ITEM A, identify TWO trends in the appointment of directors between 2001 and 2007. [6]**
- (b) Using ITEM B, identify TWO disadvantages women face in the contemporary UK. [6]**
- (c) Briefly explain ONE advantage and ONE disadvantage of using unstructured interviews with women when researching women's career progression. [12]**
- (d) Using your wider sociological knowledge, outline the evidence showing that men are disadvantaged in the contemporary UK. [22]**
- (e) Outline and evaluate feminist explanations of gender inequality in the contemporary UK. [44]**

[Total: 90 marks]



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