THIS IS A NEW SPECIFICATION

OCR
RECOGNISING ACHIEVEMENT

ADVANCED GCE

SOCIOLOGY

Exploring Social Inequality and Difference

G674

Candidates answer on the Answer Booklet

OCR Supplied Materials:
- 16 page Answer Booklet

Other Materials Required:
None

Tuesday 26 January 2010
Morning

Duration: 2 hours

G674

OCE/17661

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.
- Read each question carefully and make sure that you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Answer questions 1 and 2 and **either** question 3 **or** question 4.
- 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 **100**.
- This document consists of **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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You will be assessed on your understanding of the connections between sociological theory and methods of sociological enquiry as they apply to the study of social inequality and difference. This is linked to the core themes of power, social inequality, socialisation, culture and identity. In your answers to questions you are therefore encouraged to draw upon aspects of social inequality and difference studied throughout your course.

Answer questions 1 and 2 and **either** question 3 **or** question 4.

SOURCE MATERIAL

'Listen Up: The Voices of Homeless Children'

This report presents the findings of research into the views and feelings of children about what it is like to be homeless. It is published by Shelter, an organisation that campaigns for the rights of homeless people and to improve housing in the UK.

The aim of the research was to, *'explore housing and poverty by enabling children to describe, in their own words, their experiences'*. It was important to understand how being homeless influenced the children's feelings about their lives. For example how a period of homelessness might affect family relationships, friendships, leisure, school and health. The research also explored how factors such as gender and ethnicity affected the children's experience of homelessness.

Twenty nine children living in London and Sheffield were studied. All the children involved were aged between four and sixteen. All had recently experienced being homeless. Their parents were likely to be unemployed or have low paid jobs, and were from a range of different nationalities and ethnicities. Researchers were aware of the ethical issues involved, like confidentiality, and the possible effects on the children being studied.

The research adopted a methodology based mainly on semi-structured questionnaires and case studies. The children were also encouraged to communicate their experiences and views in other ways, using writing and drawing in activity books, and drama exercises. Some observation of the children also took place. Case studies were conducted nine months later on three older children, using unstructured interviews guided by the issues raised in the initial research. The case studies enabled researchers to explore some children's experience and feelings in more detail, and to discuss changes in their experience over time.

It was hoped that these methods would provide useful data for making generalisations about the wider population of homeless children.

The study found that the experience of being homeless affected the children in many ways. They were often very close to their immediate family and siblings. However making friends wasn't easy as moving to new accommodation disrupted relationships. In education the children often had to move schools frequently and had little space for homework. Confidence, self esteem and emotional development could be affected. As one child said, *'… for four months we didn't go to school, we went to six houses, no, seven houses and six new schools. I don't like moving, because every time I make new friends and then I have to move again.'*

Adapted from 'Listen Up', a research report by Zoya Mustafa, Shelter, 2004

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*Use the source material and your wider sociological knowledge to answer **both** questions 1 and 2.*

1 Outline and explain why case studies may be used in sociological research. **[15]**

2 Outline and assess the view that observation provides the most useful method for sociological research into the feelings and views of homeless children. **[25]**

*Using your wider sociological knowledge answer **either** question 3(a) and (b) **or** question 4(a) and (b).*

3 **(a)** Outline the evidence for social class inequality in the contemporary UK. **[20]**

(b) Outline and assess functionalist explanations of social inequality. **[40]**

or

4 **(a)** Outline the evidence that some age groups are disadvantaged in the contemporary UK. **[20]**

(b) Outline and assess sociological explanations of age inequality. **[40]**

[Total: 100]

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