

**ADVANCED GCE****SOCIOLOGY**

Social Inequality and Difference

2539

Candidates answer on the Answer Booklet

OCR Supplied Materials:

- 16 page Answer Booklet

Other Materials Required:

None

Tuesday 29 June 2010
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 **one** question. Each question has **five** parts (a) to (e).
- 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 **90**.
- You will be awarded marks for the quality of written communication where an answer requires a piece of extended writing.
- This document consists of **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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

Housing tenure, by socio-economic group 2006

(All figures in percentages)

Socio-economic group	Owned Outright	Owned with mortgage	Rented from social sector	Rented privately
Large employers and higher managerial occupations	14	77	2	7
Higher professional occupations	20	65	1	14
Intermediate occupations	17	59	13	11
Semi routine occupations	17	38	30	16
Routine occupations	16	43	27	14
Never worked/long term unemployed	12	2	73	13

Source adapted from General Household Survey, ONS, 2008

Item B

The contemporary UK faces a housing crisis that has been neglected since at least 1979 and is only now being acknowledged. It is driven by a high and growing single population, continued immigration and the abandonment and demolition of existing housing. Lack of access to decent, affordable housing is a major problem in the UK, but homeless people are clearly the worst off and face extreme poverty. People living and sleeping on the streets are a minority of the homeless; there are also families and individuals living in temporary accommodation such as night shelters, hostels, bed and breakfast and with relatives and friends. The insecurities of homelessness impact on other economic and social rights, such as health, education and social security.

Adapted from S. Weir (2006), *Unequal Britain*, human rights as a route to social justice, p184-198, Politico, 2006

- (a) Using **Item A**, identify **two** differences between higher professional occupations and routine occupations in terms of their housing tenure. [6]
- (b) Using **Item B**, identify **two** reasons which may explain the housing crisis in the contemporary UK. [6]
- (c) Briefly explain **two** methodological difficulties facing sociologists when researching experiences of homelessness in the contemporary UK. [12]
- (d) Using your wider sociological knowledge, outline the evidence to show which social groups are most likely to experience poverty in the contemporary UK. [22]
- (e) Outline and evaluate structural explanations of poverty 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

Household expenditure per head, per week, by ethnic group. All figures in £.

Items of Expenditure	White	Mixed	Asian	Black
Food and non alcoholic drinks	19.30	15.40	12.30	13.50
Alcoholic drinks, tobacco and narcotics	5.10	3.70	1.10	1.70
Clothing and footwear	9.90	9.90	8.10	8.40
Communication	4.90	5.20	4.10	6.10
Health	2.30	1.90	1.10	1.30
Recreation and Culture	25.50	14.70	10.90	13.90

Source: Expenditure and Food Survey, Office for National Statistics
Social Trends 38 2008-05-12

Item B

Data from the 2001 census appears to show an increasing similarity of experience between white people and some ethnic minority groups. Although there remains evidence of widespread discrimination and disadvantage against some ethnic groups, this appears to coexist with significant upward social mobility for others. The growth of a middle class of professional and managerial workers in some ethnic communities has led some to suggest that a convergence is underway in the class structure of minority ethnic groups towards that of the white population. However, the patterns are complex as recent evidence suggests that upward occupational mobility is being matched by a decrease in income for some people.

Adapted from D. Mason (2006) *Ethnicity*, p117, Palgrave MacMillan.

- (a) Using **Item A**, identify **two** differences in household expenditure between White and Asian ethnic groups. [6]
- (b) Using **Item B**, identify **two** ways in which there is an increasing similarity of experience between white people and some ethnic minority groups. [6]
- (c) Briefly explain **two** methodological problems facing sociologists researching weekly household expenditure in the contemporary UK. [12]
- (d) Using your wider sociological knowledge, outline the evidence to show that the contemporary UK remains an unequal society. [22]
- (e) Outline and evaluate sociological explanations for the changing nature of the middle class in the contemporary UK. [44]

[Total: 90 marks]

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