



**GCE AS/A level**

328/01

**SOCIOLOGY – SOC 2α**

**UNIT 2α - SOCIAL RESEARCH**

A.M. TUESDAY, 13 May 2008

1¼ hours

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

You are advised to spend 15 minutes reading the passage and questions. Divide your time according to the mark allocation given.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

The question carries 60 marks.

The number of marks is given in square brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

**You are reminded that marking will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.**

Read the following passage and then answer **all** the questions that follow.

### **Research into planned teenage pregnancy**

The aim of the study was to explore the decisions behind ‘planned’ teenage pregnancy among those facing poverty and disadvantage.

Young people were selected purposively (that is, non-randomly) for the interviews. The sample was all White British and from a variety of different geographical locations throughout the country. Two methods were used for the research process.

**Questionnaires** were sent to a variety of organisations such as young mums’ groups or support groups, located in different parts of England. 179 women between the ages of 14 and 25 completed a questionnaire. 63% of those completing the questionnaires were aged between 16 and 19.

In order to meet the objectives of the research, it was considered appropriate to use semi-structured, in-depth interviews with a further sample. These young people were selected according to the following criteria:

- they said their pregnancy was planned;
- they were either pregnant or already a parent of a child less than one year old;
- they were aged 19 or under prior to the planned pregnancy;
- they were currently experiencing, or experienced in the past, relatively high levels of poverty and disadvantage.

51 interviews were conducted, 41 with young mums or mums-to-be, and 10 with young fathers.

The interview opened informally by exploring the young people’s first experiences of pregnancy (for example, how old they were, how they found out they were pregnant, who they told, the father’s reaction, and so on).

The main body of the interview asked specifically how childhood, family history, income and housing, may have influenced their decision-making regarding pregnancy. The open interview allowed scope for respondents to explain fully their decision to have a child.

*Source: adapted from ‘Planned’ teenage pregnancy: Perspectives of young parents from disadvantaged backgrounds by Suzanne Cater and Lester Coleman*

- (a) Explain what is meant by the term **questionnaire**. [5]
- (b) Identify and explain the strengths of the **sampling processes** used in the research described. [10]
- (c) Using both the passage, and your own knowledge, describe and explain why **interviews** are a useful method of research. [15]
- (d) Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of **quantitative** research methods in relation to understanding society. [30]