



**GCE A level**

1354/01

**SOCIOLOGY - SY4**

**UNIT 4 – UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL DIVISIONS**

A.M. FRIDAY, 27 January 2012

2 hours

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

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

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **question 1** and **one** other question.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

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

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

Credit will be given for reference to recent public debate and research publications.

*(Compulsory)*

### 1. English Longitudinal Study of Ageing

The English Longitudinal Study of Ageing obtains information on the health of approximately 8500 people over the age of 50. The research takes place every two years and follows a nationally representative sample of people to avoid unintended patterns emerging.

A sample of postcodes was selected from the Postcode Address File using a **random sampling technique**. Each selected household was sent a letter explaining the purpose of the research and asking if members would agree to be interviewed and complete a questionnaire.

The researchers were able to collect both quantitative and qualitative data and produced wide ranging and detailed information about health and longevity.

*Adapted from Banks, J., Breeze, E., Lessof, C. and Nazroo, L. (2007) Retirement, Health and Relationships of the Older Population in England: The English Longitudinal Study of Ageing, Published by the Institute for Fiscal Studies*

- (a) Identify and explain **two** reasons why the researchers decided to use a **random sampling technique** in their research. [10]
- (b) As an A Level Sociology student you have been asked to design a research project to collect **quantitative** data on the extent of regular exercise amongst a sample of elderly people in your area.
- Outline **each** stage of your research design explaining the reasons for your choices at **each** stage.
  - Identify some of the problems that may occur and their impact on the quality of the data collected. [30]

*Choose one question from the following options.*

### **Understanding World Sociology**

**Either,**

2. (a) Identify **two** areas of life, **one** from the developing world and **one** from the developed world where there is class inequality. Illustrate your answer with reference to evidence from **each** area identified. [20]
- (b) Evaluate sociological explanations of inequalities in the developing world. [30]

**Or,**

3. (a) Identify **two** areas of life, **one** from the developing world and **one** from the developed world where there is inequality. Illustrate your answer with reference to evidence from **each** area identified. [20]
- (b) Evaluate the usefulness of sociological explanations of gender inequality in the developing world. [30]

### **Understanding Social Inequality**

**Either,**

4. (a) Identify **two** areas of life in the contemporary UK where there is evidence of class inequality. Illustrate your answer with reference to evidence from **each** area identified. [20]
- (b) Evaluate the view that class inequality is functional for society. [30]

**Or,**

5. (a) Identify **two** areas of life in the contemporary UK where there is evidence of ethnic inequality. Illustrate your answer with reference to evidence from **each** area identified. [20]
- (b) Evaluate the usefulness of Marxist explanations of ethnic inequality. [30]