

# **ASSESSMENT AND QUALIFICATIONS ALLIANCE**

**General Certificate of Secondary Education  
June 2010**

## **Sociology**

**Unit 1 Investigating the Media**

**41901**

**Friday 25 June 2010 1.30 pm**

<p><b>For this paper you must have:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a 12-page answer book.</li></ul>
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### **TIME ALLOWED**

- 1 hour 30 minutes plus your additional time allowance.

**[Turn over]**

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

- **Use black ink or black ball-point pen.**
- **Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The EXAMINING BODY for this paper is AQA. The PAPER REFERENCE is 41901.**
- **This paper is divided into THREE Topic Areas.**
  - Topic 1: Answer ALL questions.**
  - Topic 2: Answer ALL questions from Section 1 AND ONE question from Section 2.**
  - Topic 3: Answer ALL questions from Section 3 AND ONE question from Section 4.**
- **Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.**

## **INFORMATION**

- **The marks for questions are shown in brackets.**
- **The maximum mark for this paper is 90.**
- **Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in all questions where extended writing is required.**
- **You will be marked on your ability to:**
  - **use good English**
  - **organise information clearly**
  - **use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.**

## **ADVICE**

- **You are advised to spend about 30 minutes answering each of the three topics.**

**DO NOT TURN OVER UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO**

**TOPIC 1: STUDYING SOCIETY**

You must answer ALL questions on this topic.

**TOTAL FOR THIS TOPIC: 30 MARKS**

Study ITEMS A, B AND C below and answer the questions that follow.

<b>ITEM A</b>			
<b>GCSE ACHIEVEMENT IN 2008 – BY GENDER</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Percentage (%) achieving A* – C grades</b>		<b>Percentage (%) difference</b>
	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>	
<b>Art</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Design &amp; Technology</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>English</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Maths</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>All GCSEs</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>7</b>

**ITEM B****GENDER AND LEARNING**

Becky Francis studied the ways in which gender affects students' learning in school. The project involved research in three different London secondary schools. Observation was used by her to record classroom interaction and student behaviour during GCSE lessons.

In eight of the twelve lessons observed, boys dominated the classroom interaction by being louder and more disruptive than girls, taking up 'laddish' or 'class clown' roles.

**ITEM C****‘DOLLS ARE FOR GIRLS AND LEGO IS FOR BOYS’**

**In modern Britain, there are many influences on the socialisation of males and females into their gender roles.**

**Recent research has found that parents chose toys for boys that involved action, construction and machinery. However, they tended to steer girls towards dolls and perceived ‘feminine’ interests such as hairdressing.**



**[Turn over for questions]**

- 0 1** From ITEM A, which subject shows the smallest percentage difference between girls and boys achieving A\* – C GCSE grades? [1 mark]
- 0 2** From ITEM B, identify the research method used by Becky Francis. [1 mark]
- 0 3** Outline ONE advantage and ONE disadvantage of using the research method that you have identified in **0 2** above. [2 marks]
- 0 4** Study ITEM C. Describe how the sociological idea of gender differs from the biological idea of sex. [4 marks]
- 0 5** Explain what sociologists mean by gender socialisation. [4 marks]
- 0 6** Explain ONE way in which a longitudinal study would be useful for research into the socialisation of boys and girls in modern British society. [4 marks]

**You have been asked as a sociologist to investigate why girls significantly out-perform boys in examination subjects such as Art and English.**

- 0 7** Identify ONE way in which you could select your sample AND explain why this would be appropriate. [4 marks]
- 0 8** Identify ONE ethical issue which may arise in the course of doing your research AND explain why this might be an issue for this particular research. [4 marks]
- 0 9** Identify ONE primary research method that you would use AND explain why it is better than another possible primary method for obtaining the information that you need. [6 marks]

**[Turn over for the next topic]**

**TOPIC 2: EDUCATION**

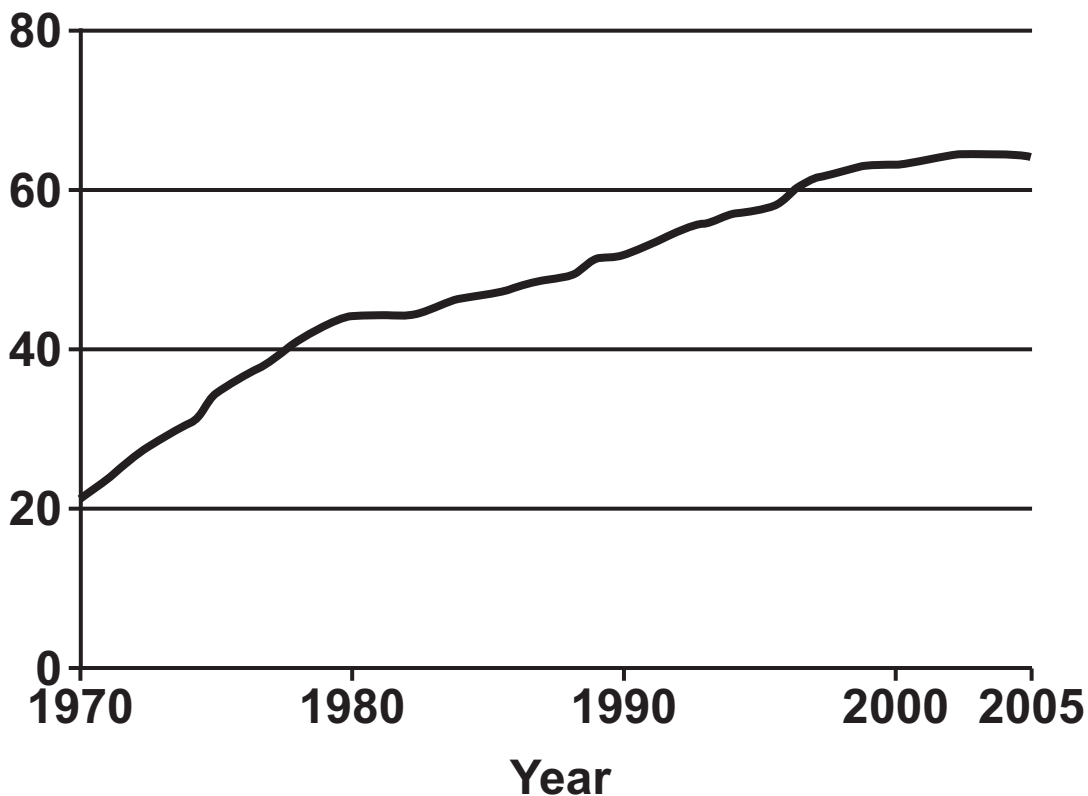
Answer ALL questions from SECTION 1 and ONE from SECTION 2.

**TOTAL FOR THIS TOPIC: 30 MARKS**

Study ITEMS D and E below and answer the questions that follow.

**ITEM D****PERCENTAGE (%) OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 IN SCHOOL**

Percentage





<b>ITEM E</b>		
<b>ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT IN YEAR 11 – ENGLAND 2006</b>		
<b>Key characteristic</b>		<b>Percentage (%) with 5 or more GCSE A* – C grades</b>
<b>Parental qualifications</b>	<b>Degree</b>	<b>83</b>
	<b>Below A-level</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Free school meals</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>61</b>
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Truancy in Year 11</b>	<b>Persistent truancy</b>	<b>13</b>
	<b>No truancy</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Type of school attended</b>	<b>State comprehensive</b>	<b>57</b>
	<b>Independent</b>	<b>86</b>

**[Turn over for section 1]**

**SECTION 1**

- 1 | 0** From ITEM D, what is the overall trend between 1970 and 2005 in children under 5 attending schools? [1 mark]
- 1 | 1** From ITEM E, what percentage of children who receive free school meals obtained 5 or more A\* – C grades at GCSE? [1 mark]
- 1 | 2** Identify TWO reasons why parents may or may not wish to send their children to a particular school. [2 marks]
- 1 | 3** Explain what sociologists mean by the hidden curriculum. [4 marks]
- 1 | 4** Describe ONE way in which parents can assist their children to achieve well at school AND explain how this would help. [5 marks]
- 1 | 5** Describe ONE way in which governments have attempted to check what happens in schools AND explain what effect such monitoring may have on a school. [5 marks]

**SECTION 2**

**EITHER**

**1 6** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that educational reforms over the last 25 years have been successful in raising the achievement of ALL pupils. [12 marks]

**OR**

**1 7** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the situation in a pupil's home is a more important cause of educational under-achievement than the type of school he or she attends. [12 marks]

**[Turn over for the next topic]**

### TOPIC 3: FAMILIES

Answer ALL questions from SECTION 3 and ONE from SECTION 4.

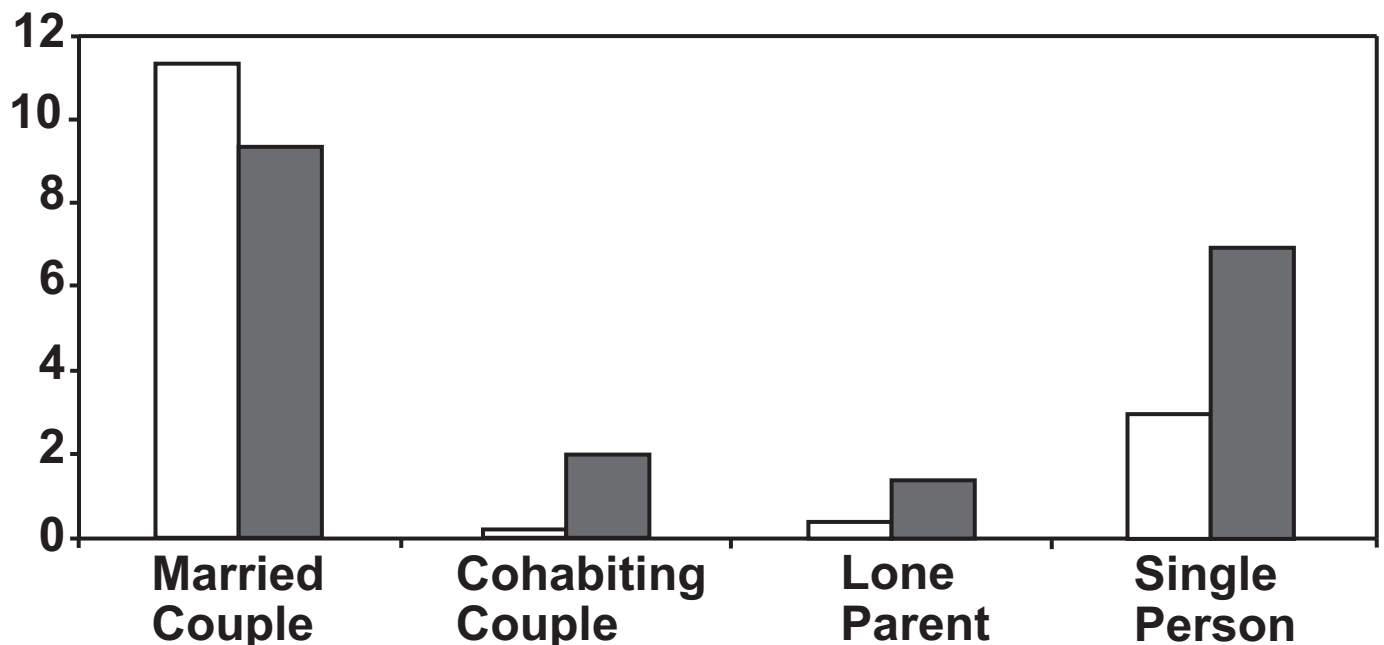
TOTAL FOR THIS TOPIC: 30 MARKS

Study ITEMS F AND G below and answer the questions that follow.

#### ITEM F

#### CHANGES IN HOUSEHOLD TYPE – 1971 TO 2006

Number of Households  
(Millions)



Type of Household

#### KEY



**ITEM G**

**POWER AND CONTROL IN THE FAMILY**

**A recent survey found that one incident of domestic violence is reported by women to the police every minute in the United Kingdom. Other research has also found that women were more likely to suffer domestic violence than men. Seventy per cent of reported domestic violence is by men against their female partners.**

**[Turn over for section 3]**

**SECTION 3**

- 1 8** From ITEM F, were there more lone-parent households in 1971 or in 2006? [1 mark]
- 1 9** From ITEM G, identify how often an incident of domestic violence is reported to the police by a woman. [1 mark]
- 2 0** Identify TWO reasons for the rise in single person households from 1971 to 2006. [2 marks]
- 2 1** Explain what sociologists mean by an extended family. [4 marks]
- 2 2** Describe ONE form of help which a grandparent might provide for a family AND explain how this may help members of a family. [5 marks]
- 2 3** Describe ONE way in which governments might provide assistance to lone parent families AND explain how this would assist lone parents. [5 marks]

**SECTION 4**

**EITHER**

**2 | 4** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the nuclear family is the norm in Britain today.  
[12 marks]

**OR**

**2 | 5** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that inequalities exist within the home. [12 marks]

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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