



General Certificate of Secondary Education  
June 2010

# Sociology

# 41901

## Unit 1

**Friday 25 June 2010 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm**

**For this paper you must have:**

- a 12-page answer book.

### Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 minutes

### 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.

## 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>	
Art	81	64	17
Design & Technology	70	54	16
English	70	56	14
Maths	57	56	1
All GCSEs	69	62	7

<b>Item B</b>
<b>Gender and Learning</b>
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

<b>Item C</b>	
<b>'Dolls are for girls and lego is for boys'</b>	
<p>In modern Britain, there are many influences on the socialisation of males and females into their gender roles.</p> <p>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.</p>	

- 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**

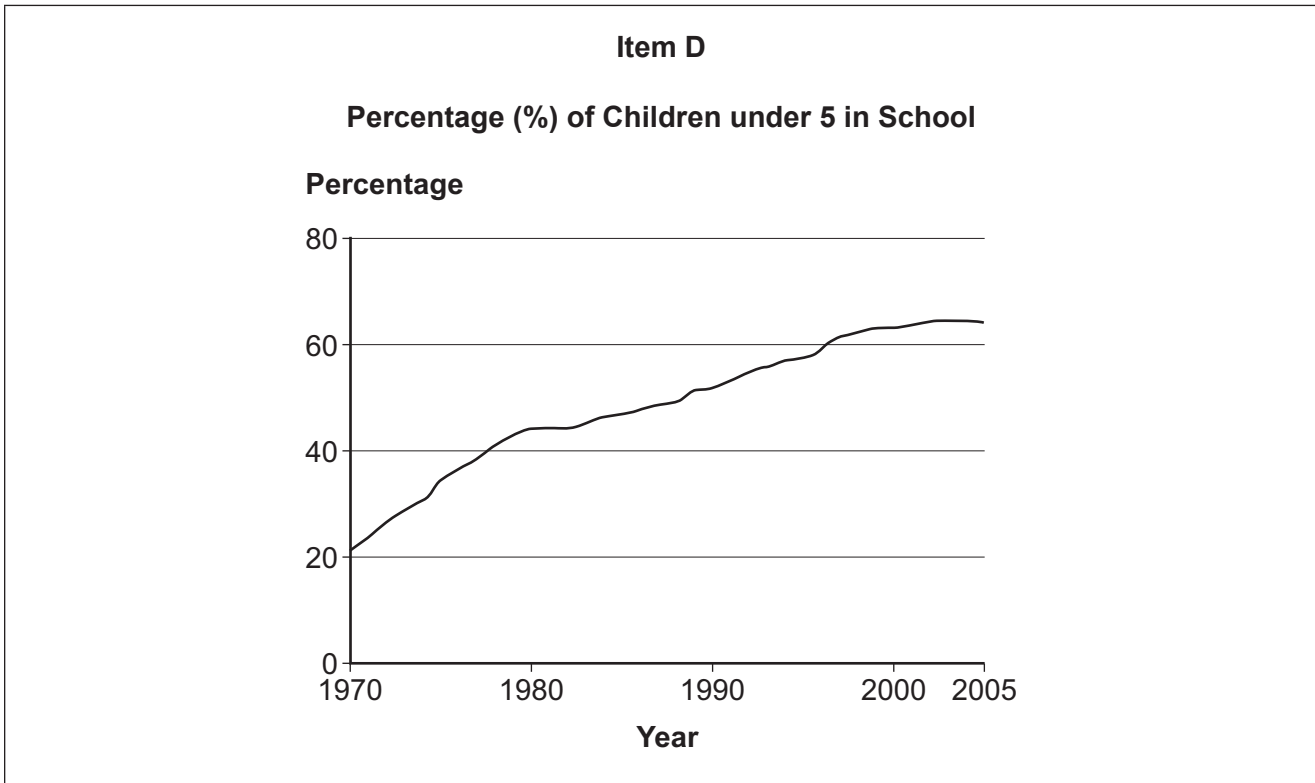
**Turn over ►**

## 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 E**

**Academic Achievement in Year 11 – England 2006**

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

**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**

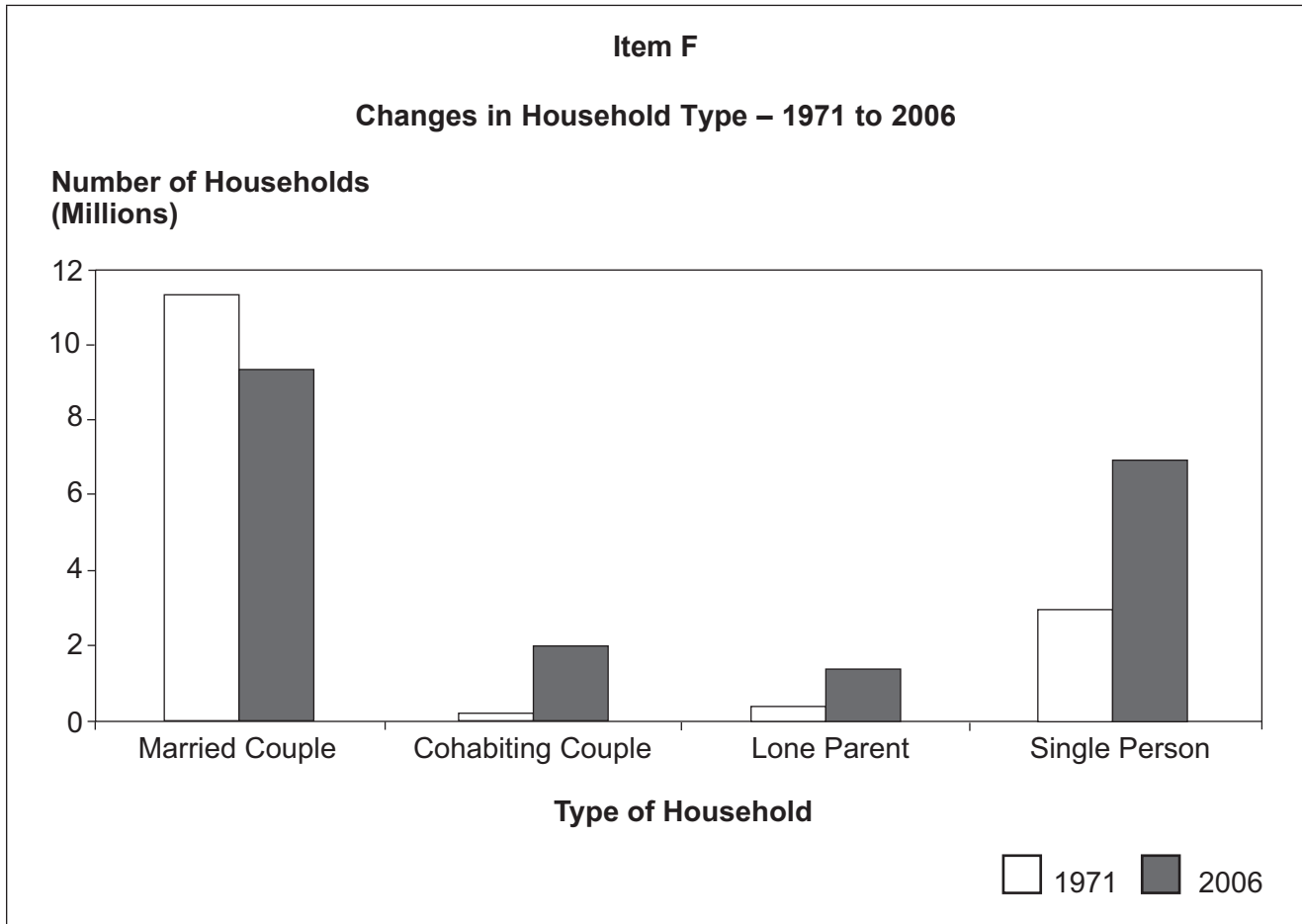
**Turn over ►**

**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 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.

**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**

---

**There are no questions printed on this page**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT-HOLDERS AND PUBLISHERS

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders have been unsuccessful and AQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements in future papers if notified.

- Item A: *GCSE Results – June 2008*, Joint Council for Qualifications, 21 August 2008.  
Item B: *Sociology AS for AQA*, Reprinted by permission of HarperCollins Publishers Ltd © (2008) (S. Moore et al).  
Item C: *'Playing Fair?'* (extract thereof), Dorothy Lepkowska, 16 December 2008. Copyright Guardian News & Media Ltd 2008.  
Item C: Photograph © GEOFF GREEN, 2009.  
Item D: *Social Trends 39*, ONS, © Crown Copyright. Reproduced under the terms of the Click-Use Licence.  
Item E: *Statistical Bulletin, Youth Cohort Study*, DCSF, 26 June 2008. Reproduced under the terms of the Click-Use Licence.  
Item F: *Sociology AS for AQA*, Reprinted by permission of HarperCollins Publishers Ltd © (2008) (S. Moore et al).  
Item G: *Sociology AS for AQA*, Reprinted by permission of HarperCollins Publishers Ltd © (2008) (S. Moore et al).