



General Certificate of Secondary Education
January 2012

Sociology

41901

Unit 1

Friday 27 January 2012 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 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 in Section 1 **and one** question from Section 2.
Topic 3: Answer **all** questions in 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.
- Questions carrying 12 marks should be answered in continuous prose. In these questions you will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

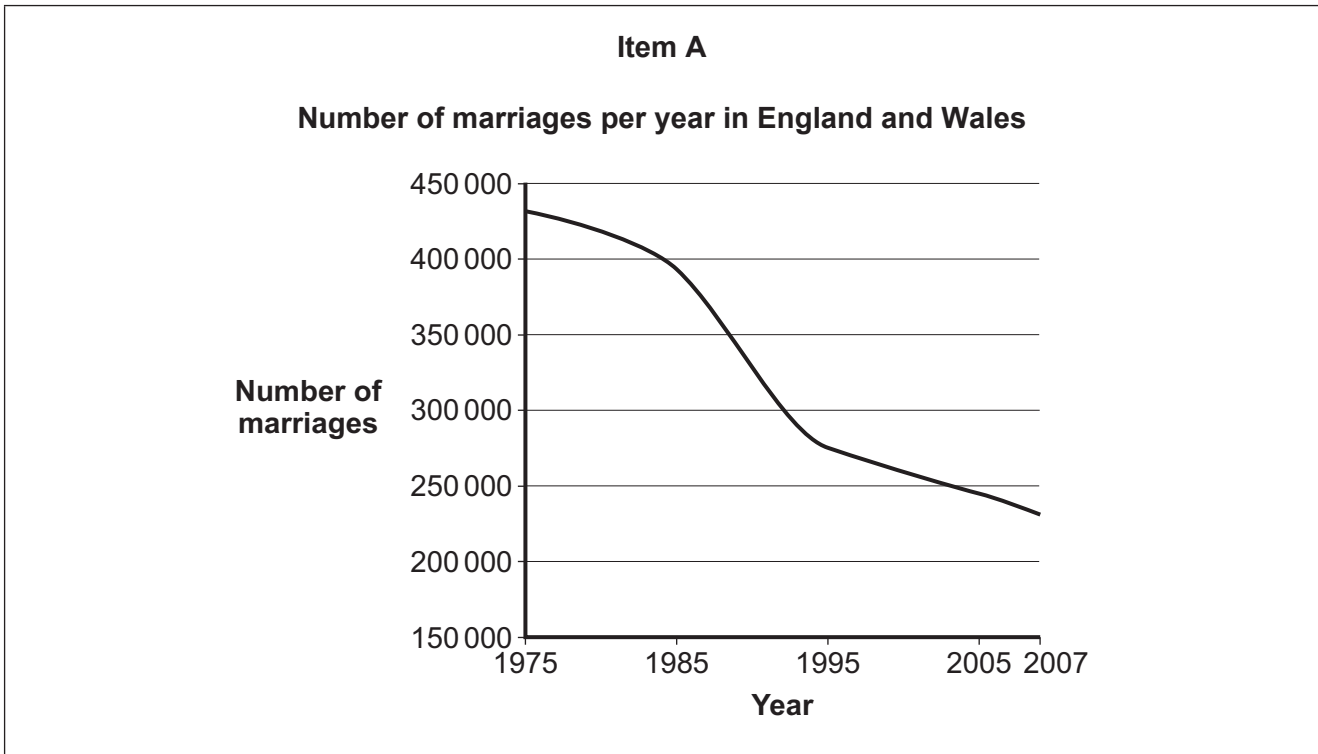
- You are advised to spend about 30 minutes answering each of the three topics.

Topic 1: Studying Society

You must answer **all** questions on this topic.

Total for this topic: 30 marks

Study **Items A** and **B** below and answer the questions that follow.



Item B

Cohabitation in Britain

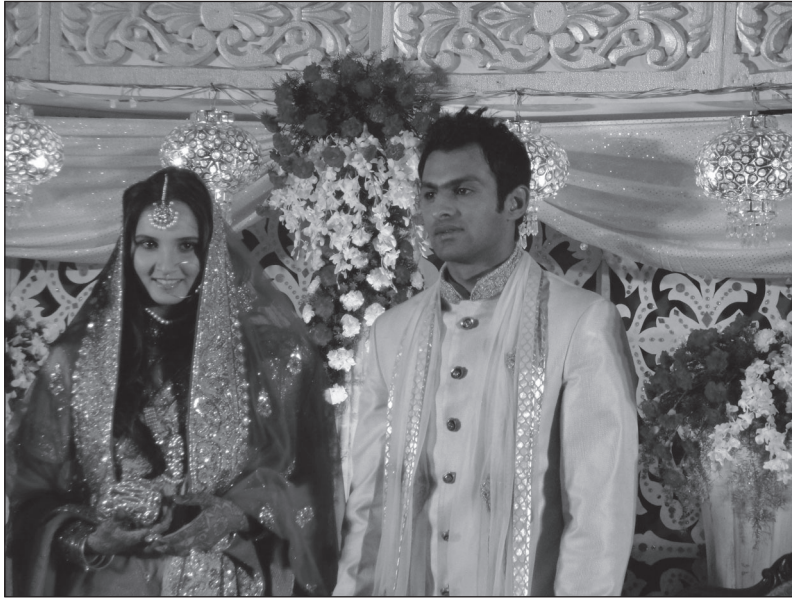
More couples are now cohabiting than ever before and many more children are being raised by non-married parents. Researchers Carol Smart and Pippa Stevens recently interviewed 40 cohabiting parents. They explored issues such as why they chose to cohabit rather than marry, and their views on marriage.

The project was a small-scale qualitative study with a sample of 20 mothers and 20 fathers, which reflected a wide range of social class backgrounds.

- 0 1** From **Item A**, what is the trend between 1975 and 2007 in the number of marriages? (1 mark)
- 0 2** From **Item B**, identify the research method used by Smart and Stevens. (1 mark)
- 0 3** Give **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of using the research method identified in **Item B**. (2 marks)

Item C

Marriage in multicultural Britain



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- 0 4** Study **Item C** above. Explain what sociologists mean by family diversity. (4 marks)
- 0 5** Describe how a sociological approach to families may differ from a biological approach to families. (4 marks)
- 0 6** Explain the importance of clear research aims when carrying out a sociological investigation. (4 marks)

You have been asked as a sociologist to investigate attitudes towards marriage.

- 0 7** Identify **one** secondary source of information that you would use in your study **and** explain why this source might be useful. (4 marks)
- 0 8** Identify **one** ethical issue which may arise when asking people about marriage **and** explain how you might deal with this in your research. (4 marks)
- 0 9** Identify **one** method of interviewing that you might use **and** explain whether this method is better than using postal questionnaires for your research into attitudes towards marriage. (6 marks)

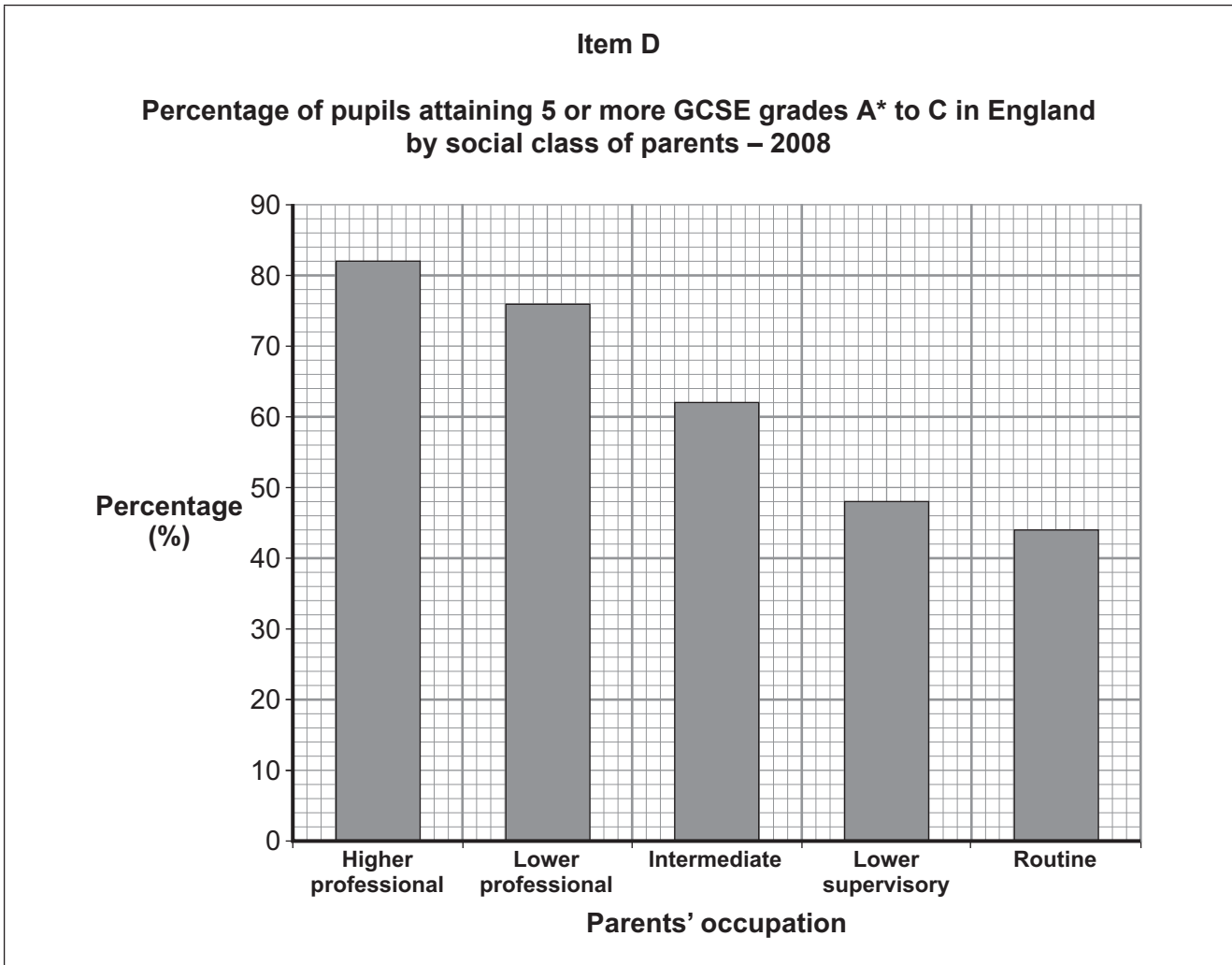
Turn over ►

Topic 2: Education

Answer **all** questions in **Section 1** and **one** question from **Section 2**.

Total for this topic: 30 marks

Study **Items D** and **E** below and answer the questions that follow.

**Item E****Gender differences in education**

Females outperform males at almost every level, and more females than males attend university. Despite this, some feminist researchers argue that gender remains an issue in British schools.

For example, they are concerned about gender differences in subject choice and the narrow subject choices that girls are making. Females are more likely to take arts subjects and males are more likely to take scientific and technological subjects.

Section 1

- 1 0** From **Item D**, what percentage of pupils with parents in routine occupations achieved five or more GCSE grades A* to C in 2008? (1 mark)
- 1 1** From **Item E**, are females or males more likely to take scientific and technological subjects? (1 mark)
- 1 2** Identify **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of children with special needs being educated in mainstream schools. (2 marks)
- 1 3** Explain what sociologists mean by pupil subcultures. (4 marks)
- 1 4** Describe **one** way in which teacher expectations can affect attainment **and** explain how this may or may not lead to an improvement in educational achievement. (5 marks)
- 1 5** Describe **one** way in which a personal tutor or mentor can try to raise individual pupil performance **and** explain how this may lead to an improvement in educational achievement. (5 marks)

Section 2**EITHER**

- 1 6** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the social class background of pupils has a significant effect on their educational performance. (12 marks)

OR

- 1 7** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that gender inequalities still exist within education in Britain. (12 marks)

Turn over for the next topic

Turn over ►

Topic 3: Families

Answer **all** questions in **Section 3** and **one** question from **Section 4**.

Total for this topic: 30 marks

Study **Items F** and **G** below and answer the questions that follow.

Item F

Stepfamilies in Britain – 2007

Type of stepfamily	Percentage (%)
Couple with children from the woman's previous marriage or cohabitation	86
Couple with children from the man's previous marriage or cohabitation	10
Couple with children from both parents' previous marriage or cohabitation	4

Item G

'Pester Power'



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Section 3

- 1 8** From **Item F**, what percentage of stepfamilies contained children from both parents' previous marriage or cohabitation? (1 mark)
- 1 9** From **Item G**, what is 'pester power'? (1 mark)
- 2 0** Identify **two** possible consequences of living in a stepfamily. (2 marks)
- 2 1** Explain what sociologists mean by authority relationships in families. (4 marks)
- 2 2** Describe **one** change in the role of women in families **and** explain why this change has occurred. (5 marks)
- 2 3** Describe how the pattern of divorce has changed in Britain over the last 50 years **and** explain why this pattern has occurred. (5 marks)

Section 4**EITHER**

- 2 4** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that there is no longer a typical British family. (12 marks)

OR

- 2 5** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that changes in family size have led to families becoming more child-centred. (12 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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