



General Certificate of Secondary Education  
January 2012

## Sociology

**41902**

### Unit 2

**Wednesday 1 February 2012 9.00 am to 10.30 am**

**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 41902.
- This paper is divided into **four** Topic Areas. Answer **three** Topics only.
  - Topic 1: Answer **all** questions in Section 1 **and one** question from Section 2.
  - Topic 2: Answer **all** questions in Section 3 **and one** question from Section 4.
  - Topic 3: Answer **all** questions in Section 5 **and one** question from Section 6.
  - Topic 4: Answer **all** questions in Section 7 **and one** question from Section 8.
- 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

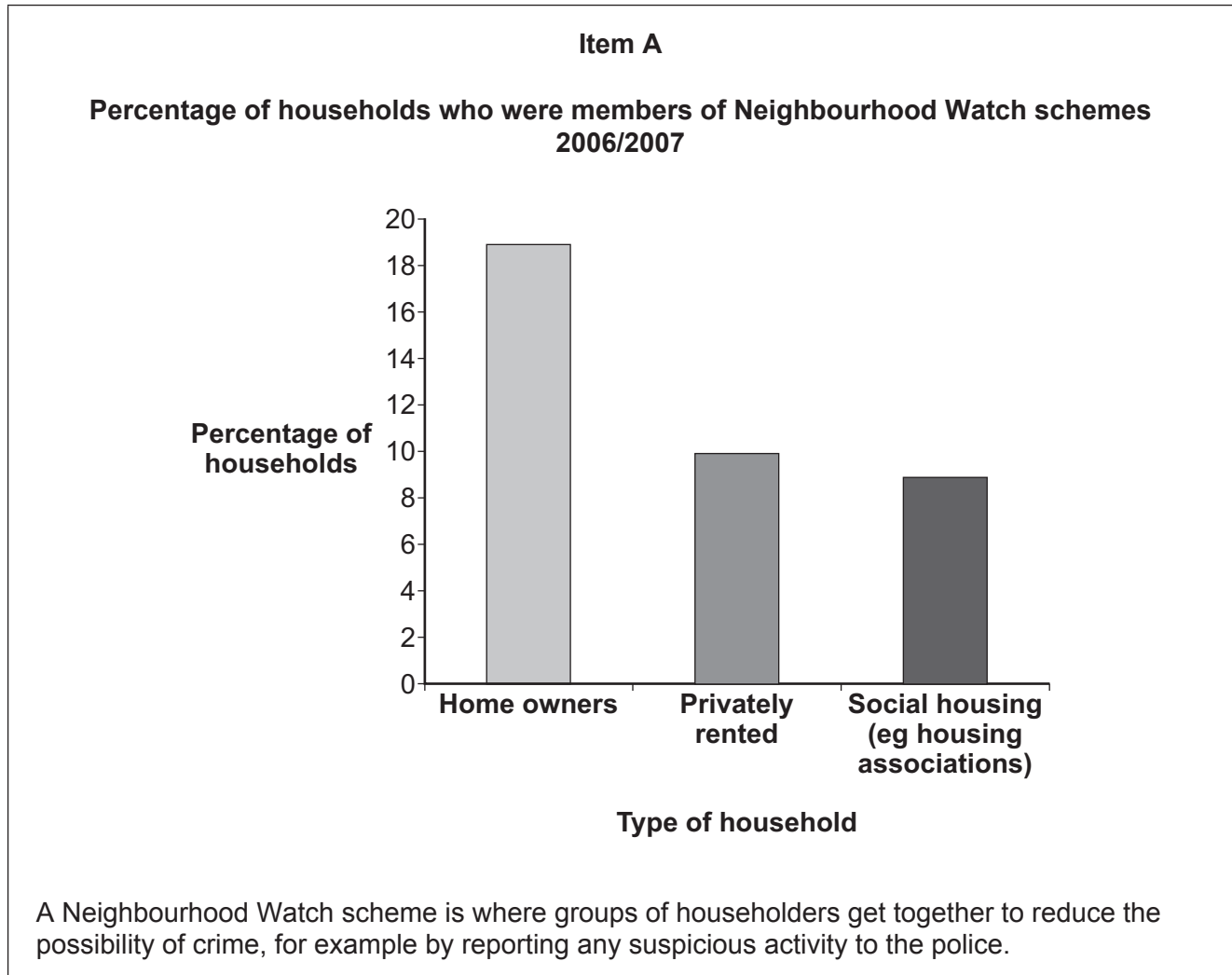
- You are advised to spend about 30 minutes answering each of the **three** topics.

**Topic 1: Crime and Deviance**

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

**Total for this topic: 30 marks**

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



**Item B**

**Statistics watchdog warns about crime figures**

The person in charge of collecting official statistics in the United Kingdom has warned politicians about their use of crime figures. He said that it was impossible to compare police statistics over time because there were changes in the way they were recorded. He claimed that the British Crime Survey was 'more reliable'. However, critics say that it is less accurate, as more serious offences (such as murder and rape) are not included.

**Section 1**

- 0 | 1** From **Item A**, which type of household had the highest membership of Neighbourhood Watch schemes in 2006/2007? (1 mark)
- 0 | 2** From **Item B**, give **one** example of a serious offence that is not included in the British Crime Survey. (1 mark)
- 0 | 3** Identify **two** types of crime commonly experienced in urban communities. (2 marks)
- 0 | 4** Explain what sociologists studying deviance mean by peer pressure. (4 marks)
- 0 | 5** Describe **one** recent approach to reduce the number of violent crimes committed by young people **and** explain why this approach might not have been successful. (5 marks)
- 0 | 6** Describe **one** way in which some sociologists believe that labelling can lead to deviant behaviour **and** explain why this might be a problem for certain groups within society. (5 marks)

**Section 2****EITHER**

- 0 | 7** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that most criminal behaviour is caused by poverty and social deprivation. (12 marks)

**OR**

- 0 | 8** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that official statistics give an accurate picture of the levels of crime in society. (12 marks)

**Turn over for the next topic**

**Turn over ►**

**Topic 2: Mass Media**

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

**Total for this topic: 30 marks**

Study **Items C** and **D** and answer the questions that follow.

**Item C****Big Brother 11 – contestants enter the house**

In the last 15 years or so there has been a huge growth in so-called 'reality television' shows such as 'Big Brother'. In such programmes, ordinary people can become overnight celebrities, with the audience deciding who succeeds or fails. Reality shows have proved particularly popular with young females, who are more likely to vote in such shows than in an election.

**Item D****The rise in social networking websites**

Facebook is a social networking site which enables people to chat, post images and state an opinion on just about any subject. It recently announced that it was close to having 500 million members across the world, having only started in 2004. However, in 2010, it was heavily criticised in the United Kingdom for allowing people to set up pages which, for example, praised someone who had murdered another man and then shot an unarmed police officer.

**Section 3**

- 0 9** From **Item C**, with which social group are reality shows particularly popular? (1 mark)
- 1 0** From **Item D**, in which year did the social networking site 'Facebook' start? (1 mark)
- 1 1** Identify **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of the growth in mobile phone use amongst young people. (2 marks)
- 1 2** Explain what sociologists mean by political socialisation when studying the effect of the mass media on political opinion. (4 marks)
- 1 3** Describe **one** process through which editors and journalists can influence what appears in the news **and** explain why this might lead to bias when covering an event. (5 marks)
- 1 4** Describe **one** way in which the mass media stereotype males **and** explain why some sociologists might argue that this is a problem. (5 marks)

**Section 4****EITHER**

- 1 5** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that an audience's behaviour is directly affected by what it sees and hears in the mass media. (12 marks)

**OR**

- 1 6** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the rapid growth of the internet and other digital media has increased freedom of speech in our society. (12 marks)

**Turn over for the next topic**

**Turn over ►**

### Topic 3: Power

Answer **all** questions in **Section 5** and **one** question from **Section 6**.

**Total for this topic: 30 marks**

Study **Items E** and **F** and answer the questions that follow.

#### Item E

##### People's attitudes to the financing of retirement pensions – 2008

Age Group	Who should pay when we retire?		
	Mainly the Government (%)	Mainly a person's employer (%)	Mainly people themselves and their family (%)
18–24	54	19	27
25–40	56	11	33
41–60	59	10	31
Over 60	64	7	29

#### Item F

##### Percentage turnout by age and gender in the 2010 General Election

Age Group	Men (%)	Women (%)
18–24	50	39
25–34	56	54
35–54	67	67
55 and over	76	73

Figures are percentages (%) of the total number of people able to vote in the particular age group.

**Section 5**

- 1 7** From **Item E**, what percentage of those aged over 60 think that mainly the Government should pay when we retire? *(1 mark)*
- 1 8** From **Item F**, which age group had the highest percentage turnout for both men and women? *(1 mark)*
- 1 9** Identify **two** ways in which employees can act together to improve their pay and conditions. *(2 marks)*
- 2 0** Explain what sociologists mean by power relationships. *(4 marks)*
- 2 1** Describe **one** way in which pressure groups try to influence government decisions **and** explain why some pressure groups are more successful than others in influencing such decisions. *(5 marks)*
- 2 2** Describe **one** way in which the police have power over members of the public **and** explain how this might affect the relationship between the police and the community. *(5 marks)*

**Section 6****EITHER**

- 2 3** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that social problems such as poverty and unemployment are most effectively addressed by government action. *(12 marks)*

**OR**

- 2 4** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that age is the most important influence on an individual's participation in the political process. *(12 marks)*

**Turn over for the next topic**

**Turn over ►**

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**Topic 4: Social Inequality**

Answer **all** questions in **Section 7** and **one** question from **Section 8**.

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**Total for this topic: 30 marks**

Study **Items G** and **H** and answer the questions that follow.

**Item G****Admissions to England's top universities**

A recent study by an educational charity shows that nearly half the admissions to Oxford and Cambridge Universities continue to come from the top 200 schools in England.

Of the top 200 schools, only 13 are comprehensives, and over 150 are selective grammar or fee-paying schools. These schools are dominated by the children of more wealthy, middle-class parents.

**Item H****The gender gap in British business**

Research by a national newspaper shows that only five of Britain's top 100 companies have a woman boss, and one fifth has no female executives at all.

Pressure groups called for action to address the inequality. One group said that although people generally thought the battle for equality had been won, the war was not over. As an example, one recruitment agency was quoted as saying that having female executives mattered in businesses such as retail, but it was not important in more 'masculine' industries such as engineering.



**Section 7**

- 2 | 5** From **Item G**, how many of the top 200 schools are comprehensives? (1 mark)
- 2 | 6** From **Item H**, what proportion of Britain's top 100 companies has no female executives at all? (1 mark)
- 2 | 7** Identify **two** reasons why an individual's social class may change during his or her lifetime. (2 marks)
- 2 | 8** Explain what sociologists mean by the poverty trap. (4 marks)
- 2 | 9** Describe **one** way in which the status of the elderly may be lower than that of other age groups in society **and** explain how this may lead to discrimination against them. (5 marks)
- 3 | 0** Describe **one** consequence of child poverty **and** explain why the problem of child poverty continues to exist. (5 marks)

**Section 8****EITHER**

- 3 | 1** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that there is less class inequality now than 50 years ago. (12 marks)

**OR**

- 3 | 2** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that gender discrimination in the workplace remains an issue in Britain today. (12 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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- Item E: *British Social Attitudes Survey*, National Centre for Social Research, Social Trends 40, 2010.  
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- Item F: Data from IPSOS MORI 2010 Election Studies: [www.ipsos-mori.com](http://www.ipsos-mori.com)
- Item G: *Widening Access to Selective Universities*, The Sutton Trust, 2010.
- Item H: *Revealed: The gender gap in British business*, S ARNOTT, [www.independent.co.uk/news](http://www.independent.co.uk/news), August 14, 2010.  
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