



General Certificate of Secondary Education
January 2013

Sociology

41901

Unit 1

Tuesday 29 January 2013 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 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, B and C** and answer the questions that follow.

Item A

A survey of young people's relationships with family and friends

Young people said they were:	Relationship with Family (%)	Relationship with Friends (%)
Very happy	28	21
Mostly happy	29	31
Fairly happy	22	26

Item B

Exploring relationships between grandparents and grandchildren



A recent study by Nicola Ross found that many grandparents played a key role in the socialisation of their grandchildren. When grandchildren were younger, time was spent together on outings and playing, or with the grandparents teaching skills and providing child care. As grandchildren grew older, the relationships were more likely to revolve around talking, and giving advice and support.

The research method used was in-depth interviews held with respondents from both generations in order to explore the meaning and significance of grandparent–grandchild relations.

Item C

The importance of parenting in society

Many longitudinal studies conducted in Britain investigate the roles that parents play in the development of children. The National Child Development Survey is an example of a longitudinal study. It began in 1958, and continues to follow the same representative sample of individuals born in one particular week of that year. The aim of the study is to improve understanding of the factors affecting human development.

After the first survey, there were a further eight surveys between 1965 and 2009 to obtain information concerning educational and social development. The National Child Development Survey has become a major resource for investigating social mobility and the impact of childhood conditions on later life.

- 0 1** From **Item A**, what percentage of young people said they had a very happy relationship with their family? *(1 mark)*
- 0 2** From **Item B**, identify the research method used by Nicola Ross. *(1 mark)*
- 0 3** Give **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of using Nicola Ross's research method, as referred to in **Item B**. *(2 marks)*
- 0 4** Study **Item C**. Describe how a longitudinal study might be useful for research into the influence of parents on a child's development. *(4 marks)*
- 0 5** Explain what sociologists mean by socialisation. *(4 marks)*
- 0 6** Explain **one** way in which sociological research might help governments to design policies to support parents in Britain. *(4 marks)*

You have been asked as a sociologist to investigate the importance of family life to teenagers.

- 0 7** Identify what sociologists mean by opinion polls **and** explain how useful these might be for your investigation. *(4 marks)*
- 0 8** Identify **one** ethical issue that you may need to consider **and** explain how you could deal with this issue in your investigation. *(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 your investigation. *(6 marks)*

Turn over ►

Topic 2: Education

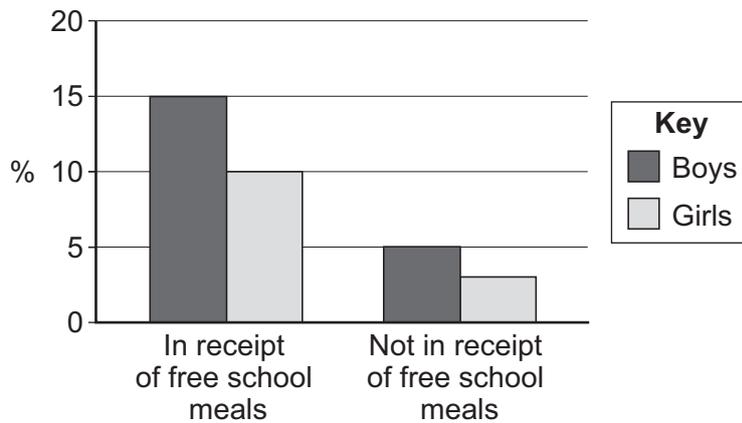
Answer **all** questions in **Section 1** and **one** question from **Section 2**.

Total for this topic: **30 marks**

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

Item D

Percentage of Year 11 pupils with fewer than 5 GCSE passes (2010)



Receipt of free school meals is seen as an indicator that a child is from a low income and disadvantaged background.

Item E

Independent schools are still the best route to top professions

Profession	Percentage (%) who went to this type of school		
	Independent	Grammar	Comprehensive
Judges	70	28	2
Politicians	32	25	43
Journalists	54	32	14
Chief Executives	54	26	20

Section 1

- 1 0** From **Item D**, what percentage of boys with fewer than 5 GCSE passes were in receipt of free school meals? *(1 mark)*
- 1 1** From **Item E**, what percentage of journalists went to a comprehensive school? *(1 mark)*
- 1 2** Identify **two** reasons why parents send their children to independent schools. *(2 marks)*
- 1 3** Explain what sociologists mean by a faith school. *(4 marks)*
- 1 4** Describe **one** way in which schools put pupils into groups **and** explain how this may affect a pupil's educational achievement. *(5 marks)*
- 1 5** Describe **one** government policy of the past 25 years which has attempted to improve educational standards **and** explain how successful this policy has been. *(5 marks)*

Section 2**EITHER**

- 1 6** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that a pupil's social class background is the main reason for differences in educational achievement. *(12 marks)*

OR

- 1 7** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the type of school a child attends has a significant effect on his/her life chances. *(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** and answer the questions that follow.

Item F

A survey in 2011 asked a sample of people:

How important a role do you think marriage plays in British society today?

	Gender		Age	
	Men	Women	18–24	60+
Important	60%	59%	57%	65%
Not important	38%	38%	38%	33%

Item G

The importance of the extended family

Percentage who said how often they see extended family members (eg grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc):

Frequency	18–24 year olds (%)	25–34 year olds (%)	35–44 year olds (%)
Daily	1	2	2
Weekly	15	15	27
Fortnightly	11	11	8
Monthly	24	22	17

Section 3

- 1 8** From **Item F**, what percentage of people aged 60+ thought that marriage was important?
(1 mark)
- 1 9** From **Item G**, what percentage of those aged 25–34 years saw members of their extended family daily?
(1 mark)
- 2 0** Identify **two** reasons why there has been an increase in the number of children being born outside marriage in the past 50 years.
(2 marks)
- 2 1** Explain what sociologists mean by cohabitation.
(4 marks)
- 2 2** Describe **one** way in which gender roles in the family have changed in the past 50 years **and** explain why this change has happened.
(5 marks)
- 2 3** Describe **one** family type which is more commonly found in Britain today than in the 1970s **and** explain why this change has happened.
(5 marks)

Section 4**EITHER**

- 2 4** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that marriage is important in Britain today.
(12 marks)

OR

- 2 5** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the nuclear family is no longer the norm in modern Britain.
(12 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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- Item A: *Young People*, survey results reproduced by kind permission of YouGov and The Prince's Trust, 2009.
- Item B: text adapted from *Grandparents and teen grandchildren*, N Ross et al, 2006, Centre for Research on Families and Relationships, The University of Edinburgh, www.crfr.ac.uk. Photograph © Thinkstock.
- Item C: *ESDS Longitudinal supporting the use of key data*, Universities of Essex and Manchester, 2011.
- Item D: *Educational attainment at age 16, Graph 3*, GUY PALMER The Poverty Site, www.poverty.org.uk, English National Pupil Database, DfE, 2011.
- Item E: *The Educational Backgrounds of Leading Lawyers, Journalists, Vice Chancellors, Politicians, Medics and Chief Executives*, The Sutton Trust, 2009.
- Item F: *Marriage Today*, YouGov Survey Results, YouGov, 2011.
- Item G: *Family Life*, YouGov Survey Results, YouGov, 2011.