



AS SOCIOLOGY

Paper 2 Research Methods and Topics in Sociology

Tuesday 24 May 2016

Morning

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7191/2.
- Answer **all** questions in **Section A** and **all** questions from **one** topic in **Section B**.
- 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 60.
- Questions carrying 10 marks or more 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.

Section A

Research Methods

Answer **all** questions in this section.

0 1

Outline **two** ethical issues that may influence a sociologist's choice of research method.

[4 marks]

0 2

Evaluate the advantages of using official statistics in sociological research.

[16 marks]

Section B

Choose **one** topic from this section and answer **all** the questions on that topic.

Topic B1 Culture and Identity

- 0 3** Define the term 'agency of socialisation'. **[2 marks]**
- 0 4** Using **one** example, briefly explain how labelling can affect an individual's sense of self. **[2 marks]**
- 0 5** Outline **three** characteristics of mass culture. **[6 marks]**
- 0 6** Outline and explain **two** ways in which an individual's social experiences may be shaped by disability. **[10 marks]**
- 0 7** Read **Item A** below and answer the question that follows.

Item A

For some sociologists, globalisation is having a significant impact on social identity in the United Kingdom today. Globalisation exposes people to a range of influences and experiences that may challenge local and national sources of identity.

One possible consequence of this is the emergence of new hybrid identities.

Applying material from **Item A** and your knowledge, evaluate the view that globalisation is having a significant impact on social identity in the United Kingdom today.

[20 marks]

Turn over for the next Topic

Topic B2 Families and Households

- 0 8** Define the term 'serial monogamy'. **[2 marks]**
- 0 9** Using **one** example, briefly explain how women may be exploited within the family. **[2 marks]**
- 1 0** Outline **three** reasons for women delaying childbirth. **[6 marks]**
- 1 1** Outline and explain **two** ways in which government policies may affect the experience of childhood today. **[10 marks]**
- 1 2** Read **Item B** below and answer the question that follows.

Item B

Marxists see all social institutions as serving the interests of capitalism. They argue that institutions such as the family help to maintain the system of class inequality and exploitation.

Alternatively, functionalists argue that the family performs vital functions for the whole of society. For example, family members benefit from the support and emotional satisfaction that they give each other.

Applying material from **Item B** and your knowledge, evaluate the contribution of Marxist views to our understanding of the family.

[20 marks]

Topic B3 Health

- 1 3** Define the term 'health chances'. **[2 marks]**
- 1 4** Using **one** example, briefly explain how the movement of people between countries may affect the patterns of health and illness in the United Kingdom. **[2 marks]**
- 1 5** Outline **three** ways in which the medical profession may serve its own interests rather than the interests of society as a whole. **[6 marks]**
- 1 6** Outline and explain **two** reasons why members of some ethnic groups may be more likely to be diagnosed with mental illness than members of other ethnic groups. **[10 marks]**
- 1 7** Read **Item C** below and answer the question that follows.

Item C

Traditionally, disability was seen as an imperfection that meant a person was unable to perform everyday tasks.

Alternatively, the idea of the social construction of disability is that a person may have an impairment of some kind. However, this impairment only becomes a disability as a result of the way in which society is organised and responds to the impairment.

Applying material from **Item C** and your knowledge, evaluate the view that disability is socially constructed.

[20 marks]

Turn over for the next Topic

Topic B4 Work, Poverty and Welfare

- 1 8** Define the term 'welfare state'. **[2 marks]**
- 1 9** Using **one** example, briefly explain how technological change may lead to reskilling. **[2 marks]**
- 2 0** Outline **three** reasons why families with young children may be likely to experience poverty. **[6 marks]**
- 2 1** Outline and explain **two** ways in which government policies may have affected the gap between rich and poor during the last 40 years. **[10 marks]**
- 2 2** Read **Item D** below and answer the question that follows.

Item D

For some people, worklessness has a significant negative effect on their lives and life chances. The unemployed may struggle to make ends meet, and being out of work may also affect self-esteem.

However, there are some social groups that may choose not to work, or may not need to work. For these groups, worklessness can be a positive experience.

Applying material from **Item D** and your knowledge, evaluate sociological views on the significance of worklessness for people's lives and life chances.

[20 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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