



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
June 2012

Sociology

SCLY4

Unit 4

Tuesday 19 June 2012 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 2 hours

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 SCLY4.
- This paper is divided into **two** sections.
- Choose **one** section and answer **all** the questions in that section.
- Do **not** answer questions from more than one section.
- 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.
- All questions should be answered in continuous prose. You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Choose **either** Section A **or** Section B and answer **all** the questions in that section.

Section A: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

You are advised to spend approximately 30 minutes on question

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You are advised to spend approximately 30 minutes on question

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You are advised to spend approximately 20 minutes on question

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You are advised to spend approximately 40 minutes on question

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Total for this section: 90 marks

Crime and Deviance

Read **Item A** below and answer the question that follows.

Item A

In his study of suicide, Durkheim identified a number of social causes that could lead to suicide – something that is usually seen as a very individual and personal act. From this research, Durkheim claimed that he had established the existence of ‘social facts’. He also claimed that his findings showed that suicide could be linked to levels of social integration and moral regulation. These factors formed the basis of his four types of suicide.

However, other sociologists have focused instead on the meanings attached to suicide.

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Using material from **Item A** and elsewhere, assess different sociological explanations of suicide. (21 marks)

Read **Item B** below and answer the question that follows.

Item B

Official statistics show higher rates of arrest for some minority ethnic groups. For example, in 2007/2008, Black people were nearly four times more likely to be arrested than White people.

In the same period, the risk of being a victim of a racially motivated crime was higher for those from minority ethnic groups than for White people. For example, three per cent of mixed race people experienced a racially motivated crime in 2007/2008, compared with less than one per cent of White people.

Source: adapted from *Statistics on Race and the Criminal Justice System 2007/8*, © Crown copyright 2009

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Using material from **Item B** and elsewhere, assess sociological explanations of ethnic differences both in offending and in victimisation. (21 marks)

Methods in Context

This question requires you to **apply** your knowledge and understanding of sociological research methods to the study of this **particular** issue in **crime and deviance**.

Read **Item C** below and answer the question that follows.

Item C

Investigating substance abuse among homeless people

Homelessness is regarded as a deviant lifestyle, often involving abuse of a range of substances such as drugs or alcohol. Some homeless people live on the streets. Some spend their nights in hostels that have open access. They may gain some social contact here, but hostels are often understaffed and have limited resources to help homeless people.

Some homeless people are, or have been, involved in crimes such as robbery or violence. As a result, they are mistrustful of the police or any other organisation representing authority.

Many of the homeless are people who have 'fallen through the net', in that they have suffered from poor education, long-term unemployment and/or mental illness.

Some homeless substance abusers may feel excluded from society and may welcome the chance to talk about their situation.

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Using material from **Item C** and elsewhere, assess the strengths and limitations of using structured interviews as a means of investigating substance abuse among homeless people. (15 marks)

Theory and Methods

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Assess the view that interpretivist methods are the most appropriate methods for researching society. (33 marks)

Turn over for Section B

Turn over ►

Section B: Stratification and Differentiation with Theory and Methods

You are advised to spend approximately 30 minutes on question

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You are advised to spend approximately 30 minutes on question

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You are advised to spend approximately 20 minutes on question

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You are advised to spend approximately 40 minutes on question

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Total for this section: 90 marks

Stratification and Differentiation

Read **Item D** below and answer the question that follows.

Item D

Social class is a complex concept with many different and sometimes conflicting definitions. The definition used will determine the way social class is measured. Occupation is sometimes used as an indicator of social class. For example, official classifications of social class are often based on occupation.

However, an individual's own definition of their social class may not be the same as that of official bodies, or those used by sociologists.

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Using material from **Item D** and elsewhere, assess the usefulness of different ways of defining and measuring social class. *(21 marks)*

Read **Item E** below and answer the question that follows.

Item E

Being a member of a particular ethnic group can mean that an individual experiences different life chances. For example, official statistics show that educational achievement and patterns of employment vary greatly between different ethnic groups. Such differences in life chances can often lead to members of minority ethnic groups feeling excluded from society.

Furthermore, people may hold stereotypical views about certain minority ethnic groups.

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Using material from **Item E** and elsewhere, assess the view that ethnicity is the most important factor in determining an individual's life chances. *(21 marks)*

Methods in Context

This question requires you to **apply** your knowledge and understanding of sociological research methods to the study of this **particular** issue in **stratification and differentiation**.

Read **Item F** below and answer the question that follows.

Item F

Investigating the experiences of the underclass

New Right thinkers see the underclass as a separate social class with its own distinct culture. They believe that members of the underclass are likely to:

- be unwilling to work and prefer to live on state benefits
- have failed in education and training
- be inadequately or inappropriately socialised
- live in lone-parent families
- engage in delinquent or criminal behaviour.

However, other sociologists argue that members of the underclass have similar attitudes, values and aspirations to the rest of society. Wider economic or structural factors, such as high unemployment, determine their position in the stratification system. Members of the underclass may see their position as unfair and caused by the actions of others, and they may welcome the chance to talk about their situation.

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Using material from **Item F** and elsewhere, assess the strengths and limitations of using structured interviews as a means of investigating the experiences of the underclass.

(15 marks)

Theory and Methods

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Assess the view that interpretivist methods are the most appropriate methods for researching society.

(33 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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