



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
June 2014

Sociology

SCLY2

Unit 2 Education with Research Methods; Health with Research Methods

Wednesday 21 May 2014 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-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 **Paper Reference** is SCLY2.
- The 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 that 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 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.

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

Section A: Education with Research Methods

You are advised to spend approximately 50 minutes on questions

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0	4
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You are advised to spend approximately 30 minutes on question

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You are advised to spend approximately 40 minutes on questions

0	6
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Total for this section: 90 marks

Education

Read **Item A** below and answer questions

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 that follow.

Item A

Functionalist sociologists see the education system as a vital social institution in modern society. They argue that the education system exists to perform a range of essential functions for individuals, for institutions such as the economy, and for wider society. Functionalists regard these functions as positive ones that enable society to operate efficiently, fairly and without conflict.

However, other sociologists criticise the functionalists for wrongly assuming that education serves the interests of society as a whole.

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 Explain what is meant by 'deferred gratification'. **[2 marks]**
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 Suggest **three** reasons why some working-class parents fail to attend parents' evenings at their children's school. **[6 marks]**
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 Outline some of the reasons for ethnic differences in educational achievement. **[12 marks]**
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 Using material from **Item A** and elsewhere, assess the contribution of functionalist sociologists to our understanding of the role of the education system in society. **[20 marks]**

Methods in Context

The following question requires you to **apply** your knowledge and understanding of sociological research methods to the study of this **particular** issue in **education**.

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

Item B**Investigating pupils' literacy**

Pupils with poor reading and writing skills generally do badly in school. They may be embarrassed by their literacy problems, lack confidence and have low self-esteem. Such pupils are more likely to be disaffected with school and many are still having difficulties with reading and writing when they leave school.

Sociologists may study pupils' literacy by using written self-completion questionnaires. Respondents can complete questionnaires quickly by choosing from a fixed set of answers. Questionnaires can also be distributed to parents to ask about how much support they give to their children. However, sociologists may face certain problems in seeking to gain access to schools to administer their questionnaires.

Sociologists may also study pupils' literacy by using official statistics. Literacy is an important political issue and sociologists can access the statistics on literacy that the government collects. These statistics can be used to establish correlations with other statistical data. However, some literacy statistics are constructed from tests administered by schools and these may give a misleading picture.

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Using material from **Item B** and elsewhere, assess the strengths and limitations of **one** of the following methods for investigating pupils' literacy:

either self-completion questionnaires

or official statistics.

[20 marks]

Section A continues on the next page

Turn over ►

Research Methods

The following questions permit you to draw examples from **any areas** of sociology with which you are familiar.

- 0 6** Explain what is meant by the term 'pilot' study. **[2 marks]**
- 0 7** Suggest **two** advantages of using personal documents in sociological research. **[4 marks]**
- 0 8** Explain the difference between the 'dependent' variable and the 'independent' variable in sociological experiments. **[4 marks]**
- 0 9** Examine the ethical problems that sociologists may face in conducting their research. **[20 marks]**

Section B: Health with Research Methods

You are advised to spend approximately 50 minutes on questions **1 0** to **1 3** .

You are advised to spend approximately 30 minutes on question **1 4** .

You are advised to spend approximately 40 minutes on questions **1 5** to **1 8** .

Total for this section: 90 marks

Health

Read **Item C** below and answer questions **1 0** to **1 3** that follow.

Item C

Working-class patients see their family doctor (GP) more often than middle-class patients do. However, when we take account of their higher levels of ill health, they make less use of health care services in relation to their needs. They are also less likely to use preventative services or to be referred to a specialist.

There are also gender differences in use of health care. For example, men are less likely to visit the GP's surgery. Similarly, there are ethnic differences in access to professional health care.

- 1 0** Explain what is meant by the 'mortality rate'. **[2 marks]**
- 1 1** Identify **three** features of the biomedical model of health and illness. **[6 marks]**
- 1 2** Outline some of the ways in which the body is socially constructed. **[12 marks]**
- 1 3** Using material from **Item C** and elsewhere, assess sociological explanations of differences in health care between social groups. **[20 marks]**

Section B continues on the next page

Turn over ▶

Methods in Context

The following question requires you to **apply** your knowledge and understanding of sociological research methods to the study of this **particular** issue in **health**.

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

Item D

Investigating international differences in health

There are major differences in health and illness between different countries. Poorer countries, and countries with large inequalities between rich and poor, generally have lower average life expectancy than richer countries or those where incomes are more equal. Furthermore, different countries show different patterns of disease. Sociologists are interested in the extent, causes and effects of these international differences.

Sociologists may study international differences in health by using official statistics. Health is an important political issue and sociologists can access the statistics on health collected by international bodies and national governments around the world. However, statistics tell us nothing about the meanings and reasons underlying the health patterns that they appear to reveal. Furthermore, some statistics that sociologists wish to use may be missing or inaccurate.

Sociologists may also study international differences in health by using written questionnaires. These can be distributed widely for relevant individuals and organisations to complete. Anonymous written questionnaires can also be used to explore issues of health-related attitudes and behaviour among people in different countries. However, response rates often vary significantly between different social groups.

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Using material from **Item D** and elsewhere, assess the strengths and limitations of **one** of the following methods for investigating international differences in health:

either official statistics

or written questionnaires.

[20 marks]

Research Methods

The following questions permit you to draw examples from **any areas** of sociology with which you are familiar.

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 Explain what is meant by the term 'pilot' study. **[2 marks]**
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 Suggest **two** advantages of using personal documents in sociological research. **[4 marks]**
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 Explain the difference between the 'dependent' variable and the 'independent' variable in sociological experiments. **[4 marks]**
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 Examine the ethical problems that sociologists may face in conducting their research. **[20 marks]**

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page