

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS**

**A2 GCE**

**G674/01/I**

**SOCIOLOGY**

**Exploring Social Inequality  
and Difference**

**INSERT – QUESTION BOOKLET**

**WEDNESDAY 5 JUNE 2013: Afternoon**

**DURATION: 2 hours**

**plus your additional time allowance**

**MODIFIED ENLARGED**

**READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF**

## **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- Answer questions 1 and 2 and EITHER question 3 OR question 4.
- Read each question carefully. Make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Write your answer to each question on the lined pages in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers MUST be clearly shown.

## **INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

- The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is 100.
- Any blank pages are indicated.

## **INSTRUCTION TO EXAMS OFFICER/INVIGILATOR**

- Do not send this Insert for marking; it should be retained in the centre or recycled.

**You will be assessed on your understanding of the connections between sociological thought and methods of sociological enquiry as they apply to the study of social inequality and difference. This is linked to the core themes of power, social inequality, socialisation, culture and identity. In your answers to questions you are therefore encouraged to draw upon aspects of social inequality and difference studied throughout your course.**

**Read the source material and answer compulsory questions 1 and 2. Answer EITHER questions 3(a) and 3(b) OR questions 4(a) and 4(b).**

## **SOURCE MATERIAL**

### **INVESTIGATING PATTERNS OF ETHNIC INTERMARRIAGE**

**Muttarak and Heath researched intermarriage between different ethnic groups using secondary data. They argued that intermarriage is less likely to occur in ethnic groups which have traditional values, share a strong culture and live closely together. This limits opportunities to marry outside of the ethnic group. For example Pakistani groups may be less likely to intermarry than Chinese or White British groups.** **5**

**Muttarak and Heath also argued that over time ethnic minorities become socialised into the host society, mainly through education, and are more accepting of relationships and marriage outside their ethnic group. Intermarriage is therefore more likely to be found in second and third generations after migration.** **10**  
**15**

**The evidence used in the study was quantitative secondary data on ethnic intermarriage. This was**

taken from the UK government General Household Survey (GHS). The GHS is a national survey based on questionnaires, which is conducted annually. Each year the GHS covers about 9000 households and includes 16000 adults over the age of 16. 20

Muttarak and Heath used the quantitative secondary data taken from the GHS to test several hypotheses, including: 25

- i) second generation members of ethnic minority families are more likely to marry people from other ethnic groups than the first generation;
- ii) higher levels of education will increase rates of intermarriage. 30

Muttarak and Heath analysed the data from the GHS between 1988 and 2006. This created enough evidence to establish trends and patterns of intermarriage between ethnic groups over time and across generations. However, it was important to operationalise the concepts used in the study, for example to ensure data from different years could be compared effectively. 35

Some difficulties in using the data were caused by changes in the definitions of ethnicity that were used within the GHS between 1988 and 2006. In addition, some differences in religious background were not covered by the data, for example differences in Islamic and Christian faiths within Black African and Indian ethnic groups. 40 45

Muttarrak and Heath found that both hypotheses were supported by the research data. Intermarriage was significantly more frequent in the second generation than the first in all ethnic minority groups. Ethnic

**minorities gradually adopt the culture of the host society and become more likely to intermarry. This was also supported by the data for higher education. This showed that in most ethnic groups participation in higher education was linked to the increased likelihood of intermarriage.**

**50**

**55**

**Adapted from ‘Who Intermarries in Britain? Explaining Ethnic Diversity in Intermarriage Patterns’,  
by Raya Muttarak and Anthony Heath, in The British Journal of Sociology, Volume 61, Issue 2, 2010.**

**Use the source material AND your wider sociological knowledge to answer BOTH questions 1 and 2.**

- 1 Outline and explain the importance of operationalising concepts in sociological research. [15]**
- 2 Outline and assess the view that quantitative secondary data provides the best way to understand ethnic intermarriage in the contemporary UK. [25]**

**Using your wider sociological knowledge answer EITHER question 3(a) and 3(b) OR question 4(a) and 4(b).**

- 3 (a) Outline the evidence that gender affects life chances in the contemporary UK. [20]**  
**(b) Outline and assess functionalist explanations of gender differences. [40]**

**OR**

- 4 (a) Outline the evidence that some ethnic minorities are disadvantaged in the contemporary UK. [20]**  
**(b) Outline and assess the contributions sociologists have made to explain ethnic inequality. [40]**

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**

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