



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.

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.

10

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

15

- 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.

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.

20

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.

25

Muttarak 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.

30

*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 explanations of ethnic inequality. [40]

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**

**Copyright Information**

OCR is committed to seeking permission to reproduce all third-party content that it uses in its assessment materials. OCR has attempted to identify and contact all copyright holders whose work is used in this paper. To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced in the OCR Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download from our public website ([www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)) after the live examination series.

If OCR has unwittingly failed to correctly acknowledge or clear any third-party content in this assessment material, OCR will be happy to correct its mistake at the earliest possible opportunity.

For queries or further information please contact the Copyright Team, First Floor, 9 Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1GE.

OCR is part of the Cambridge Assessment Group; Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which is itself a department of the University of Cambridge.