



GCE A level

1354/01

SOCIOLOGY – SY4

UNIT 4

UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL DIVISIONS

A.M. MONDAY, 20 June 2011

2 hours

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **question 1** and **one** other question.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

You are reminded that assessment will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

Credit will be given for reference to recent public debate and research publications.

1. (Compulsory)

Studying illness and stigma

Gill Green and Stephen Platt wanted to find out about the experience of stigma (social shame) amongst people who are HIV positive. They adopted a purposive sampling technique in outpatients' clinics, prisons, drug rehabilitation centres and GP practices. They interviewed 61 people using a **semi-structured interview** in which respondents were encouraged to elaborate on their answers. In this way, the researchers were able to gather both qualitative and quantitative data.

Adapted from Green G. and Platt, S. (2004) "Fear and Loathing in healthcare settings reported by people with HIV"

- (a) Identify and explain **two** reasons why the researchers decided to use **semi-structured interviews** as a method of research. [10]
- (b) As an A Level Sociology student you have been asked to design a research project to collect **qualitative** data on attitudes to the National Health Service amongst a sample of pregnant women in your area.
- Outline each stage of your research design explaining the reasons for your choices at each stage.
 - Identify some of the problems that may occur and their impact on the quality of the data collected. [30]

Choose **one** question from the following options.

Understanding World Sociology

Either,

2. (a) Identify **two** areas of life, **one** from the developing and **one** from the developed world, where there is ethnic inequality. Illustrate your answer with reference to evidence from **each** area identified. [20]
- (b) Evaluate sociological explanations of ethnic inequalities in the developing world. [30]

Or,

3. (a) Identify **two** areas of life, **one** from the developing and **one** from the developed world, where there is gender inequality. Illustrate your answer with reference to evidence from **each** area identified. [20]
- (b) Evaluate the usefulness of Dependency theory as an explanation for inequality in the developing world. [30]

Understanding Social Inequality

Either,

4. (a) Identify **two** areas of life in the contemporary UK where there is evidence of gender inequality. Illustrate your answer with reference to evidence for **each** area identified. [20]
- (b) Evaluate sociological explanations of gender inequality. [30]

Or,

5. (a) Identify **two** areas of life in the contemporary UK where there is evidence of class inequality. Illustrate your answer with reference to evidence from **each** area identified. [20]
- (b) Evaluate the usefulness of Weberian theory as an explanation of inequality. [30]