



General Certificate of Secondary Education  
June 2011

## Sociology

**41902**

### Unit 2

**Tuesday 21 June 2011 9.00 am to 10.30 am**

**For this paper you must have:**

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

**Time allowed**

- 1 hour 30 minutes

**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 41902.
- This paper is divided into **four** Topic Areas. Answer **three** Topics only.
  - Topic 1: Answer **all** questions in Section 1 **and one** question from Section 2.
  - Topic 2: Answer **all** questions in Section 3 **and one** question from Section 4.
  - Topic 3: Answer **all** questions in Section 5 **and one** question from Section 6.
  - Topic 4: Answer **all** questions in Section 7 **and one** question from Section 8.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want marked.

**Information**

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 90.
- Questions carrying 12 marks 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.

**Advice**

- You are advised to spend about 30 minutes answering each of the three topics.

**Topic 1: Crime and Deviance**

Answer **all** questions in **Section 1** and **one** question from **Section 2**.

**Total for this topic: 30 marks**

Study **Items A and B** and answer the questions that follow.

**Item A****Police ‘target black and Asian people’**

After the failed 2007 London bomb attack there was a big rise in police use of stop and search powers. Figures show that during this time members of certain minority ethnic groups were far more likely to be targeted by the police than white people.

Official statistics show that the number of black people being stopped and searched more than trebled, with a similar, but slightly smaller, figure for Asians. However, the number of white people stopped barely doubled.

**Item B****Anti-social behaviour in young people**

A recent study of young people in London looked at the link between informal meetings with friends outside the home (‘hanging out’) and the chances of being involved in anti-social behaviour.

<b>Number of informal meetings outside the home per person in any one week</b>	<b>Percentage of young people likely to be involved in anti-social behaviour in same week</b>
0	17%
1	37%
2	53%
3	74%
4 or more	100%

**Section 1**

- 0 1** From **Item A**, which minority ethnic group was most likely to be stopped and searched? (1 mark)
- 0 2** From **Item B**, what percentage of young people who meet informally three times in any one week are likely to be involved in anti-social behaviour in the same week? (1 mark)
- 0 3** Identify **two** types of formal social control that societies use to enforce order. (2 marks)
- 0 4** Explain what sociologists mean by labelling. (4 marks)
- 0 5** Describe **one** way in which governments have attempted to reduce racist behaviour in society **and** explain how successful this approach has been. (5 marks)
- 0 6** Describe **one** reason why there is argument and debate about levels of violent crime in society **and** explain why this might make it difficult to reduce the public's fear of such crimes. (5 marks)

**Section 2****EITHER**

- 0 7** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that some ethnic groups appear to commit more crime than others because they are stereotyped. (12 marks)

**OR**

- 0 8** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that most deviant and criminal behaviour in young people results from peer group pressure. (12 marks)

**Turn over for the next topic**

**Turn over ►**

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**Topic 2: Mass Media**

Answer **all** questions in **Section 3** and **one** question from **Section 4**.

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**Total for this topic: 30 marks**

Study **Items C and D** and answer the questions that follow.

**Item C****Young people and television**

A research firm estimates that young people in the UK aged between 11 and 15 spend, on average, 52 hours a week in front of a screen. One expert has said that children under the age of 3 should not watch TV at all.

He thinks that children aged between 3 and 7 should watch no more than about half an hour of TV a day, 7 to 12-year-olds should be limited to one hour, and 12 to 15-year-olds should watch a maximum of one and a half hours.

He wants the Government to publish recommended daily guidelines for TV watching, as it does for salt intake.

**Item D****Ownership of the mass media**

In the last 20 years, ownership of the mass media has become concentrated in the hands of large corporations. These organisations have a range of interests, often owning newspapers, TV satellite and cable channels and film studios across the world. One such example is News International, which owns The Sun, the News of the World and Sky TV in the United Kingdom.

The Sun sells over three million copies a day, and over 80% of British households can watch at least one Sky TV channel, on satellite, cable or Freeview. Some writers worry that this gives their owner too much power over what we read and watch.

**Section 3**

- 0 9** From **Item C**, how much television is advised for children under the age of 3? (1 mark)
- 1 0** From **Item D**, how many copies of The Sun are sold every day? (1 mark)
- 1 1** Identify **two** ways in which the mass media can show a negative image of groups such as environmentalists. (2 marks)
- 1 2** Explain what sociologists mean by mass popular culture. (4 marks)
- 1 3** Describe **one** way in which newspaper owners can influence how the news is presented **and** explain why this might lead to problems in a democracy. (5 marks)
- 1 4** Describe **one** way in which digital media such as the internet have changed how we get information **and** explain why this may make it difficult for governments to control access to information. (5 marks)

**Section 4****EITHER**

- 1 5** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the mass media have replaced the family as the main agent of socialisation. (12 marks)

**OR**

- 1 6** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the political views presented by the mass media are those of the rich and powerful in society. (12 marks)

**Turn over for the next topic**

**Turn over ►**

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**Topic 3: Power**

Answer **all** questions in **Section 5** and **one** question from **Section 6**.

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**Total for this topic: 30 marks**

Study **Items E and F** and answer the questions that follow.

**Item E****Ethnicity and employment**

According to a recent newspaper article, in Britain today 75% of people who are white and of working age have a job. However, less than 50% of Pakistani or Bangladeshi people of working age, and 60% of black people of working age have a job.

These figures have not changed in the last 20 years. In the opinion of the writer, the main cause is the failure of governments to tackle discrimination by employers.

**Item F****Attitudes to women Members of Parliament (MPs)**

In a survey, 6000 people were asked if they agreed that female MPs are more effective at representing women's interests.

	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
<b>Men</b>	21%	56%	23%
<b>Women</b>	27%	58%	15%

## Section 5

- 1 7** From **Item E**, according to the writer, what is the percentage of white people of working age who have a job? (1 mark)
- 1 8** From **Item F**, what percentage of women disagreed with the statement? (1 mark)
- 1 9** Identify **two** ways in which recent governments have tried to address some of the social problems experienced by our ageing population. (2 marks)
- 2 0** Explain what sociologists mean by an elite. (4 marks)
- 2 1** Describe **one** approach which has been used in an attempt to increase the participation of women in parliamentary politics **and** explain why this approach might not be successful. (5 marks)
- 2 2** Describe **one** way in which children and young people have gained more power and influence over their education in the last 20 years **and** explain why some teachers and other adults might consider this to be a problem. (5 marks)

## Section 6

### EITHER

- 2 3** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that in Britain today power is shared equally between different ethnic groups. (12 marks)

### OR

- 2 4** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that in Britain today other factors are more important than social class in determining how people vote. (12 marks)

**Turn over for the next topic**

**Turn over ►**

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**Topic 4: Social Inequality**

Answer **all** questions in **Section 7** and **one** question from **Section 8**.

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**Total for this topic: 30 marks**

**Study Items G and H** and answer the questions that follow.

**Item G****Definitions of social class**

In the past, sociologists found it fairly easy to define a person's social class, either by looking at their economic status or their job. People could then be put into a broad social group such as the middle class or the working class.

Since the 1980s there has been a steady decline in the number of jobs in manufacturing. In addition, many jobs now require more skill than they did in the past. Sociologists investigating this area today find it quite difficult to place people into social classes, as the old divisions between working class and middle class have become blurred.

**Item H****Poverty in Britain today**

A recent report by a national charity says that millions of children in Britain live in families surviving on less than £10 per person a day. Despite hundreds of millions of pounds being spent on projects such as SureStart, child poverty in the United Kingdom has started to rise again, with another report published in 2010 showing that 13% of children in the UK lived in 'serious poverty'.



**Section 7**

- 2 5** From **Item G**, give **one** reason why sociologists today find it difficult to place people into social classes. (1 mark)
- 2 6** From **Item H**, which social group's poverty is discussed? (1 mark)
- 2 7** Identify **two** reasons why some occupations have higher status than others. (2 marks)
- 2 8** Explain what sociologists mean by social exclusion. (4 marks)
- 2 9** Describe **one** way in which some minority ethnic groups have fewer life chances than others **and** explain why this appears to continue over time. (5 marks)
- 3 0** Describe **one** reason why some sociologists use relative definitions of poverty **and** explain why some politicians might prefer to use absolute definitions. (5 marks)

**Section 8****EITHER**

- 3 1** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that there is still a traditional working class in Britain today. (12 marks)

**OR**

- 3 2** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the causes of poverty lie in the attitudes and values of the poor themselves. (12 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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Item B: *Risky behaviour and social activities*, National Centre for Social Research, 2009.

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Item C: BBC News at [www.bbc.co.uk/news](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news).

Item F: adapted from ROSIE CAMPBELL, *Gender and voting in Britain*, ESRC funded research paper, 2007.

Item H: Photograph © Getty Images.