



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
June 2011

Sociology

SCLY4

Unit 4

Monday 20 June 2011 9.00 am to 11.00 am

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-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 **Examining Body** for this paper is AQA. The **Paper Reference** is SCLY4.
- This paper is divided into **two** sections.
- Choose **one** section and answer **all** the questions from that section.
- Do **not** answer questions from more than one section.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work 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 **one** section and answer **all** the questions from that section.

Section A: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

You are advised to spend approximately 45 minutes on questions **0 1** and **0 2**.

You are advised to spend approximately 30 minutes on questions **0 3**, **0 4** and **0 5**.

You are advised to spend approximately 45 minutes on question **0 6**.

Total for this section: 90 marks

Crime and Deviance

0 1 Examine the effectiveness of crime prevention strategies in reducing crime. (12 marks)

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

Item A

Marxist sociologists explain capitalist society by focusing on social class and class divisions. For Marxists, therefore, crime can be seen as a reaction against an unequal society. Crime is not the fault of the individual but is linked to their social position and the unequal distribution of wealth in society. This means that the working class is more likely to need to commit crime.

5

The police are also more likely to target areas where the working class live. On the other hand, white-collar and other middle-class crimes often go unnoticed or unpunished.

Other sociologists argue that blaming capitalism means that those who commit crimes are thus not seen as responsible for their actions.

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0 2 Using material from **Item A** and elsewhere, assess different Marxist views of the relationship between crime and social class. (21 marks)

Methods in Context

0 3 Identify and briefly explain **one** problem of using questionnaires to investigate corporate crime. (3 marks)

0 4 Identify and briefly explain **two** problems of using experiments to investigate the relationship between the mass media and juvenile delinquency. (6 marks)

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

Item B

Investigating domestic violence

Domestic violence can take a number of forms, from psychological abuse to sexual assault. Occurring within the family unit, it presents a difficult area of study for sociologists. Statistics show that victims of domestic violence are almost always women.

The police often encounter difficulties when dealing with this type of crime. Since crimes occur in a domestic setting, they are less likely to be reported. Even when an investigation takes place, victims may be reluctant to give evidence against a partner and may be unwilling to talk to officers. 5

Those who commit acts of domestic violence often deny any wrongdoing. Domestic violence can occur in times of family crisis and can be triggered by factors such as jealousy, alcohol or money. 10

Victims of domestic violence often feel sensitive about their vulnerable position because those who abuse them are their partners or spouses. Children may also be victims of domestic violence.

0 5

Using material from **Item B** and elsewhere, assess the strengths and limitations of using unstructured interviews to investigate domestic violence. (15 marks)

*This question requires you to **apply** your knowledge and understanding of sociological research methods to the study of this **particular** issue in **crime and deviance**.*

Theory and Methods

0 6

‘Sociology can be value-free and should be value-free.’

To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this claim? (33 marks)

Turn over for Section B

Turn over ►

Section B: Stratification and Differentiation with Theory and Methods

You are advised to spend approximately 45 minutes on questions **0 7** and **0 8**.

You are advised to spend approximately 30 minutes on questions **0 9**, **1 0** and **1 1**.

You are advised to spend approximately 45 minutes on question **1 2**.

Total for this section: 90 marks

Stratification and Differentiation

- 0 7** Examine some of the patterns of social mobility in the United Kingdom over the last 30 years or so. (12 marks)

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

Item C

Women now have equal rights in many areas of social life, including education and employment. In fact, girls now outperform boys in education, across all social classes and ethnicities, gaining a greater number of GCSE grades A* to C. This increase in educational achievement has been matched by an increase in women entering the workforce. In 2000, around 45% of women were in paid employment, as compared with around 55% of men. 5

Despite these improvements, feminist sociologists argue that women still experience different life chances in comparison with men. In work, women are often more likely to be in lower-paid and part-time employment. Breaks in career due to childbirth further add to women's disadvantage in employment. 10

- 0 8** Using material from **Item C** and elsewhere, assess sociological explanations of gender differences in life chances. (21 marks)

Methods in Context

- 0 9** Identify and briefly explain **one** problem of using official statistics to investigate social class. (3 marks)
- 1 0** Identify and briefly explain **two** advantages of using official statistics to investigate social class. (6 marks)

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

Item D

Investigating the experience of old age

Older people form an increasingly large social group. With improved life expectancy and health care, this trend is set to continue. Older people often experience discrimination, disadvantage and loss of status; perhaps the most common stereotypes of the old are that they are useless or present a problem to society.

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Other difficulties for older people may include:

- declining health, limited mobility and increasing dependency on others
- loss of contact with family, friends and social networks
- having to live in a care home.

However, many older people enjoy a good quality of life; this may be because they enjoy retirement. For these older people, this time of life can mean more leisure time and more time to spend with family.

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Using material from **Item D** and elsewhere, assess the strengths and limitations of using participant observation as a means of investigating the experience of old age. (15 marks)

*This question requires you to **apply** your knowledge and understanding of sociological research methods to the study of this **particular** issue in **stratification and differentiation**.*

Theory and Methods

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‘Sociology can be value-free and should be value-free.’

To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this claim? (33 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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