



# A-level SOCIOLOGY (7192/1)

Paper 1 Education with Theory and Methods

Specimen 2015

Morning

Time allowed: 2 hours

**Materials**

For this paper you will need no other materials.

**Instructions**

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Fill in the boxes at the bottom of this page.
- Answer **all** questions.
- You must answer the questions in the spaces provided. Do not write outside the box around each page or on blank pages.
- Do all rough work in this 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 80.
- Questions carrying 10 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.

Please write clearly, in block capitals, to allow character computer recognition.

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Candidate number

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Forename(s)

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

**Item A**

On average, pupils from some ethnic groups achieve more highly at school than others. For example, Chinese and Indian pupils generally out-perform white pupils at GCSE. This is even true when we take into account whether pupils are from deprived backgrounds, as measured by whether they receive free school meals (FSM). For example, Chinese pupils on FSM do better than white pupils who are not on FSM.

Applying material from **Item A**, analyse **two** reasons why pupils from some minority ethnic groups achieve above average results in school.

**[10 marks]**

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

**Item B**

At each stage from pre-school through to university entrance, girls tend to do better than boys. For example, on entering primary school, girls are more likely to be able to write their own name. On the other hand, boys are more likely than girls to be assessed by their schools as having special educational needs.

When it comes to subject choice at age 16, there are major gender differences in the popularity of different A-level subjects and even greater gender differences in vocational courses.

Applying material from **Item B** and your knowledge, evaluate the view that gender differences in both subject choice and educational achievement are mainly the result of the influence of wider society.

**[30 marks]**

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## Methods in Context

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

### Item C

#### Investigating streaming

Streaming involves teachers differentiating between pupils on the basis of their perceived ability, placing pupils whom they believe to be of similar overall ability in the same teaching group. This may result in working-class pupils and those from certain ethnic minorities being placed in lower streams. Lower-stream pupils may lose self-esteem, give up trying and even join an anti-school subculture. By contrast, higher-stream pupils may identify strongly with the school's values and goals.

One way of studying streaming is to use unstructured interviews. These are often effective in exploring interviewees' personal feelings about sensitive subjects. However, for a variety of reasons, some pupils and teachers may refuse to participate in an unstructured interview.

Applying material from **Item C** and your knowledge of research methods, evaluate the strengths and limitations of using unstructured interviews to investigate streaming.

**[20 marks]**

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