AS
SOCIOLOGY
Paper 1  Education with Methods in Context

Tuesday 16 May 2017     Morning     Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Materials
You will need no other materials.

Instructions
• Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
• Fill in the boxes at the top 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 60.
• 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.
Education

Answer all questions.

01 Define the term ‘hidden curriculum’. [2 marks]

02 Using one example, briefly explain how selection policies may widen social class differences in educational achievement. [2 marks]

03 Outline three ways in which school may mirror work in capitalist society. [6 marks]
Outline and explain two ways in which educational policies may have affected the experience of minority ethnic groups in education. [10 marks]
Read Item A below and answer the question that follows.

**Item A**

When children start school, girls are already ahead of boys. This trend continues throughout school life, including at GCSE and A-level.

Some sociologists see factors within schools as the main cause of gender differences in educational achievement. One such factor is the increasing number of female head teachers in both primary and secondary schools.

Other sociologists suggest that out-of-school factors may have a greater impact on gender differences in achievement, such as men and women’s changing positions in society.

Applying material from Item A and your knowledge, evaluate the view that gender differences in educational achievement are the result of factors within schools.

[20 marks]
Read **Item B** below and answer the question that follows.

**Item B**

**Investigating working-class educational underachievement**

On average, working-class pupils underachieve in education compared with those from middle-class backgrounds. Some sociologists believe that material deprivation is one factor that causes working-class underachievement. Other sociologists argue that values and attitudes in working-class homes may cause underachievement. School factors may also affect achievement.

Sociologists may use written questionnaires to study working-class educational underachievement. Using written questionnaires enables the researcher to reach a large number of pupils, parents and teachers. Also, those who complete the questionnaire can usually remain anonymous. However, not all those who receive a questionnaire will complete it.

Applying material from **Item B** and your knowledge of research methods, evaluate the strengths and limitations of using written questionnaires to investigate working-class educational underachievement.

[20 marks]
Extra space

END OF QUESTIONS