

AS SOCIOLOGY

Paper 2 Research Methods and Topics in Sociology

Tuesday 23 May 2017

Morning

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7191/2.
- Answer **all** questions in **Section A** and **all** questions from **one** topic in **Section B**.
- 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 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.

Section A**Research Methods**

Answer **all** questions in this section.

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 Outline **two** problems of using laboratory experiments in sociological research. **[4 marks]**

0	2
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 Evaluate the importance of theoretical factors when choosing sociological research methods. **[16 marks]**

Section B

Choose **one** topic from this section and answer **all** the questions on that topic.

Topic B1 Culture and Identity

- 0 3** Define the term 'global culture'. **[2 marks]**
- 0 4** Using **one** example, briefly explain how leisure choices may shape identity. **[2 marks]**
- 0 5** Outline **three** ways in which age may shape an individual's experiences in society, **apart from** leisure choices. **[6 marks]**
- 0 6** Outline and explain **two** ways in which agencies of socialisation may socialise children into gender roles. **[10 marks]**
- 0 7** Read **Item A** below and answer the question that follows.

Item A

The United Kingdom is a multicultural society with a range of different ethnic groups. Some of these ethnic groups have their own distinctive identity and culture.

However, individuals may adopt more than one identity, depending on the social situation in which they find themselves.

Applying material from **Item A** and your knowledge, evaluate sociological explanations of the ways in which ethnicity may shape identity.

[20 marks]

Turn over for the next topic

Topic B2 Families and Households

- 0 8** Define the term 'life course'. **[2 marks]**
- 0 9** Using **one** example, briefly explain how family life may be functional for adults. **[2 marks]**
- 1 0** Outline **three** effects on society of an ageing population. **[6 marks]**
- 1 1** Outline and explain **two** ways in which changes in society may have affected family size. **[10 marks]**
- 1 2** Read **Item B** below and answer the question that follows.

Item B

The 'march of progress' view argues that the experience of childhood in Western societies has improved in the last 50 years or so. In particular, families have become child centred.

However, other sociologists point to many negative aspects of childhood today, such as increased child obesity.

Applying material from **Item B** and your knowledge, evaluate sociological explanations of changes in the experience of childhood in the last 50 years or so.

[20 marks]

Topic B3 Health

- 1 | 3** Define the term 'the sick role'. **[2 marks]**
- 1 | 4** Using **one** example, briefly explain why there may have been a decline in the confidence of patients in the medical profession. **[2 marks]**
- 1 | 5** Outline **three** reasons why women are more likely than men to be treated for mental illness. **[6 marks]**
- 1 | 6** Outline and explain **two** reasons why some age groups are more likely than others to consult their doctor. **[10 marks]**
- 1 | 7** Read **Item C** below and answer the question that follows.

Item C

Working-class people are at a greater risk of illness and early death than middle-class people. Materialist explanations see the unequal structure of society as the underlying cause of these social class inequalities in health.

However, some sociologists argue that cultural and behavioural differences are more important.

Applying material from **Item C** and your knowledge, evaluate materialist explanations for social class inequalities in health. **[20 marks]**

Turn over for the next topic

Topic B4 Work, Poverty and Welfare

- 1 8** Define the term 'globalisation'. **[2 marks]**
- 1 9** Using **one** example, briefly explain a problem of using an absolute definition of poverty. **[2 marks]**
- 2 0** Outline **three** reasons why some individuals of working age may be economically inactive. **[6 marks]**
- 2 1** Outline and explain **two** reasons why means-tested benefits may fail to lift people out of poverty. **[10 marks]**
- 2 2** Read **Item D** below and answer the question that follows.

Item D

Marxists argue that alienation at work is inevitable in capitalist society. They argue that technology is used to de-skill workers and make work repetitive and dull. Technology enables managers to control workers more effectively.

Other sociologists are more optimistic about the nature of work. They argue that technology can free workers from monotonous work and can increase workers' skills and independence.

Applying material from **Item D** and your knowledge, evaluate the view that alienation at work is inevitable in capitalist society.

[20 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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