



General Certificate of Secondary Education
June 2014

Sociology

41902

Unit 2 Crime and Deviance; Mass Media; Power; Social Inequality

Monday 19 May 2014 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 **Paper Reference** is 41902.
- The 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 to be 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**The social background of prisoners in England and Wales 2011–2012**

- Half of all male prisoners and a third of all female prisoners were excluded from school.
- Half of all prisoners have no qualifications.
- Half of all prisoners read less well than the average 11-year-old child.
- Two-thirds of all prisoners were unemployed in the four weeks before imprisonment.

Item B**The status of gang members**

Studies of gang members involved in the riots of summer 2011 found that they mostly wanted the same things as the rest of society, such as a job with good pay and high status. However, many gang members had done badly at school, and therefore found it difficult to achieve this.

Fifty years ago, an American sociologist claimed that gang members turned to deviant behaviour to gain status in the gang because they could not achieve high status in society in the normal way.

Section 1

- 0 1** From **Item A**, what proportion of female prisoners was excluded from school? [1 mark]
- 0 2** From **Item B**, why did gang members find it difficult to get a job with good pay and high status? [1 mark]
- 0 3** Identify **one** advantage **and one** disadvantage of using official crime statistics. [2 marks]
- 0 4** Explain what sociologists mean by corporate crime. [4 marks]
- 0 5** Describe **one** way in which recent governments have attempted to reduce levels of violent crime in society **and** explain how successful this has been. [5 marks]
- 0 6** Describe **one** way in which agencies of formal social control encourage people to conform **and** explain why this may lead to problems for some social groups. [5 marks]

Section 2**Either**

- 0 7** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the working class is more likely to commit crime than other social classes. [12 marks]

or

- 0 8** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that belonging to a sub-culture leads to deviant behaviour in young people. [12 marks]

Turn over for the next topic**Turn over ►**

Topic 2: Mass Media

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

Total for this topic: 30 marks

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

Item C**Membership of social networking sites in 2012**

A study in 2012 of approximately 1000 young people investigated what percentage belonged to at least one social networking site.

Gender	Percentage (%) aged 7–11	Percentage (%) aged 12–15
Girls	71	94
Boys	56	88

Item D**Representations of crime in the mass media**

Many sociologists have described how the mass media may exaggerate levels of crime in society. Often this can result in a social group being stereotyped as more deviant than it really is, for example, the youth subcultures studied by Stanley Cohen. Another example was the way some newspapers in the 1980s reported street crimes such as mugging. These reports suggested that such crime was mostly committed by young black men.

Section 3

- 0 9** From **Item C**, what percentage of girls aged 7–11 belonged to at least one social networking site?
[1 mark]
- 1 0** From **Item D**, which social group was stereotyped in the 1980s as being responsible for most street crime?
[1 mark]
- 1 1** Identify **two** ways in which groups such as animal rights protesters may use the internet to promote their opinions.
[2 marks]
- 1 2** Explain what sociologists studying the mass media mean by pluralism.
[4 marks]
- 1 3** Describe **one** way in which the owners of the mass media may influence what is reported in the news **and** explain why this may cause problems in a democracy.
[5 marks]
- 1 4** Describe **one** sociological argument which claims that violence in the mass media leads to violence in real life **and** explain why some sociologists may disagree with this argument.
[5 marks]

Section 4**Either**

- 1 5** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the mass media are the most important agent of socialisation in society today.
[12 marks]

or

- 1 6** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the mass media present a negative stereotype of minority ethnic groups.
[12 marks]

Turn over for the next topic**Turn over ►**

Topic 3: Power

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

Total for this topic: 30 marks

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

Item E

Attitudes to voting in different age groups

In 2011, an opinion poll asked over a thousand people how likely they were to vote in the next general election. Figures are percentages (%) of people in that age group.

	18–24 age group	25–34 age group	35–64 age group	65+ age group
Certain/very likely to vote	61	56	74	81
Uncertain	17	23	13	8
Unlikely to vote/ definitely will not vote	19	20	11	10
Don't know/no response	3	1	2	1

Item F

Gap between rich and poor 'widest for forty years'

A report published in 2010 said that the gap in wealth between rich and poor was the widest for forty years. By the time they retired, the richest ten per cent would have wealth of nearly £900 000 per person, compared to the poorest ten per cent, who would have less than £9000.

The report's authors said that this trend was likely to continue, as wealthy parents could pay for things such as houses near good schools. This gave their children far more power over their lives than children from poorer families.

Section 5

- 1 7** From **Item E**, what percentage of those aged 25–34 were uncertain whether they would vote in the next general election?
[1 mark]
- 1 8** From **Item F**, how much wealth per person would the richest ten per cent have by the time they retired?
[1 mark]
- 1 9** Identify **two** types of authority.
[2 marks]
- 2 0** Explain what sociologists mean by dictatorship.
[4 marks]
- 2 1** Describe **one** area of social life where women have less power than men **and** explain why this situation continues today.
[5 marks]
- 2 2** Describe **one** way in which recent governments have tried to reduce the cost of the Welfare State **and** explain how successful this has been.
[5 marks]

Section 6**Either**

- 2 3** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that in Britain today young people are not interested in politics.
[12 marks]

or

- 2 4** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that in Britain today the poor have little power over their lives.
[12 marks]

Turn over for the next topic**Turn over ►**

Topic 4: Social Inequality

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

Total for this topic: 30 marks

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

Item G

Helping the poor

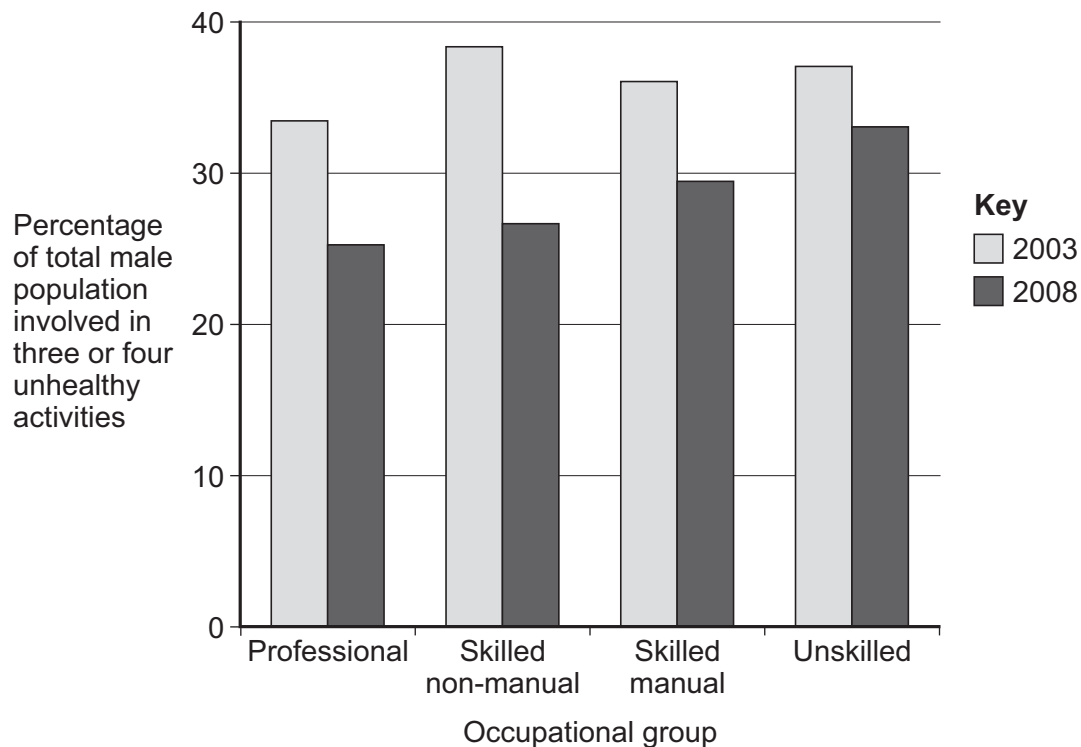
Until the 1980s most sociological explanations for poverty looked at factors beyond the control of the poor themselves. These explanations said that the Welfare State should support poor people by giving them benefits to help them whilst they moved out of poverty.

However, some writers in Britain today argue that, instead of helping the poor, the benefits system actually keeps people in poverty.

Item H

Occupational group and unhealthy lifestyle

A recent study looked at changes between 2003 and 2008 in the number of men with unhealthy lifestyles (smoking, drinking, poor diet and too little exercise).



Section 7

- 2 | 5** From **Item G**, what do some writers in Britain today argue about the benefits system?
[1 mark]
- 2 | 6** From **Item H**, what occupational group had the highest percentage of men involved in three or four unhealthy activities in 2008?
[1 mark]
- 2 | 7** Identify **two** examples of racism that minority ethnic groups may experience.
[2 marks]
- 2 | 8** Explain what sociologists mean by achieved status.
[4 marks]
- 2 | 9** Describe **one** way in which some sociologists define poverty **and** explain why other sociologists may choose another way to do this.
[5 marks]
- 3 | 0** Describe **one** way in which the social status of men has changed in recent years **and** explain why this has happened.
[5 marks]

Section 8**Either**

- 3 | 1** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that welfare dependency is the main cause of poverty in Britain today.
[12 marks]

or

- 3 | 2** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that social class is still the most important cause of inequality in Britain today.
[12 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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Item A: Adapted from Prison Population Statistics www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers. This contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v.1.0.

Item C: Richard Nicholls, Social networking: research among kids, Future Foundation, 2012.

Item H: Based on statistics from 'Clustering of unhealthy behaviours over time' reproduced with permission of the King's Fund.

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