



GCE A LEVEL – NEW

1200U40-1



S17-1200U40-1

SOCIOLOGY – A2 unit 4
Social Inequality and Applied Methods of
Sociological Enquiry

THURSDAY, 15 JUNE 2017 – AFTERNOON

2 hours 15 minutes

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **all** questions from Section A.
Answer **one** question from Section B.
Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.
Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 100 marks.
The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.
You are advised to divide your time accordingly.

SECTION A: Applied methods of sociological enquiry

Read the following item and answer all the questions.

Compulsory questionGender and gangs

Laidler and Hunt were interested in finding out more about the relationship between gender and gang membership in the San Francisco Bay area. They decided to adopt an ethnographic approach for their research which was conducted over a period of 10 years. The researchers used in-depth interviews with a mix of 141 male and female gang members. The data collected revealed that gang membership involves clearly defined roles which are linked to gender expectations. The gang is used as a means of social control with strategies employed to ensure conformity. The researchers found that expectations of the girls in the gang were much the same as those for girls who do not belong to gangs.

Source: Laidler, K.J. and Hunt, G. "Accomplishing femininity among the girls in the gang", 2001 British Journal of Criminology.

1. (a) Identify and explain two reasons why the researchers decided to adopt an ethnographic approach for their research. [10]

- (b) As an A Level Sociology student, you have been asked to design a research project to collect data on the role that friendship plays in the lives of a sample of people in your area:
 - (i) describe **each** stage of your research design, justifying the reasons for your choice at **each** stage.
 - (ii) discuss problems that may occur and the impact of these problems on the quality of the data collected.

[30]

SECTION B: Social Inequality

Answer one of the following questions.

Either,

2. (a) Identify **two** areas of life in contemporary society where there is evidence of class inequality. Illustrate your answer with reference to supporting evidence for **each** area identified. [20]
- (b) Evaluate the view that social inequality is functional for both individuals and society. [40]

Or,

3. (a) Identify **two** areas of life in contemporary society where there is evidence of social inequality. Illustrate your answer with reference to supporting evidence for **each** area identified. [20]
- (b) Evaluate the usefulness of Weberian explanations of social inequality. [40]

END OF PAPER