

GCE

Sociology

Unit H580/02: Researching and understanding social inequalities

Advanced Subsidiary GCE

Mark Scheme for June 2017

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All examiners are instructed that alternative correct answers and unexpected approaches in candidates' scripts must be given marks that fairly reflect the relevant knowledge and skills demonstrated.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the published question papers and the report on the examination.

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Annotations

Annotation	Meaning	
KU	Sociological or methodological theory	
CON	Sociological or methodological evidence: concepts / statistics / social policy	
DEV	Developed Point: fully explained in a relevant way / detailed	
	Underdeveloped: partially explained, requiring more depth	
APP	Application/Interpretation: explicit engagement with the source or context of the question	
EVAL	Q 3 and 4 for weaknesses of the method Q6 for arguments against the claim	
J	Q3 and 4: strength of the method Q6 arguments for the claim	
U	Lip service or implicit application	
?	Unclear/confused/lacks sense not creditable	
REP	Repetition	
2	Not clearly focused on question set: tangential – sociological but not directly relevant	
	Q1 clear and explicit comparisons	
Highlight	Q2 problem cited	
	Q4 in the margin for description of method only AND in the answer for combination of methods Q5 area of inequality	
	Q6 conclusion	
L		

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
1	 Summarise the data shown in Source A. AO2: Application Level 4: 4 marks The candidate shows an excellent ability by clearly and accurately summarising the data in Source A, for example by considering trends in the level of poverty in the two age groups shown and making some explicit comparison of them. Level 3: 3 marks The candidate shows a good ability to summarise the data, e.g. by summarising the trends in the two age groups. Data should be accurately interpreted, may be less clearly expressed. Level 2: 2 marks The candidate shows a basic ability to interpret the data, for example a simple statement that pensioner poverty has decreased while poverty in the working population has increased. Data will be mostly accurately used and may be lacking detail. Level 1: 1 mark The candidate shows a limited ability to interpret data, for example by accurately stating the percentage in poverty of at least one group or identifying a simple trend in one group. O marks No ability to interpret data shown, e.g. the candidate misunderstands the data or interprets it entirely inaccurately or may not state a trend or percentage.	4	 Overall candidates may conclude the following points Poverty for working age has increased fairly steadily since 1982. It increased faster 1982-1992 than 1992-2012 where there has been only a small increase. Pensioner poverty decreased 1982-84 but then increased more sharply up until the late 80s. Pensioner poverty then fell rapidly 1990-94. Since then pensioner poverty has fallen more steadily with a small increase in 2004-06. At the top level candidates should offer more detail for example pointing to periods in which levels of poverty in each group rose or fell particularly quickly or quoting statistics drawn from the graph to illustrate points. There should also be some explicit comparison, for example pointing out that from the mid-80s to 2004 pensioners were more likely to be in poverty than those of working age but that this has reversed since 2004. Candidates who simply read figures off the graph without actually summarising the information should not be placed above Level 2.

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Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
2	 Explain TWO possible problems with the representativeness of the samples used in the research summarised in Source B. AO1: Knowledge and understanding 2 marks The candidate shows a clear understanding of two problems. 1 mark The candidate clearly explains one problem or shows a partial understanding of two problems. 0 marks No relevant knowledge or understanding. AO2: Application Level 4: 4 marks The candidate shows an excellent ability to apply evidence using the source to support both reasons. Level 3: 3 marks The candidate shows a good ability to apply evidence from the Source B, for example by showing a clear ability to support one problem and some evidence to support a second. Level 2: 2 marks The candidate shows a basic ability to apply evidence from the Source B, for example by using evidence to clearly support one of the problems with lip service. Level 1: 1 mark The candidate shows a limited ability to apply evidence from Source B to support their problems, for example a brief reference to an issue such as age or 	6	 Candidates could consider problems of representativeness in relation to the following aspects: Class/occupation - all social science students so not representing other courses or people who were not students. Age – mostly 18-21 Ethnicity – Overwhelmingly white Gender – slightly more women than men Location – 2 Sheffield Universities Size – only 249 questionnaires / 23 interviews Opportunity sampling – non-random – only those willing and available to take part at the time Time period 2003/2004 AO2 The candidate should engage with the context of the source i.e. women and gaming to receive full marks.

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	ethnicity or opportunity sample. Typically reference made to the source may be lip service only to one problem.		
	0 marks No relevant application of material from the Source		

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or be of marginal relevance. Typically reference to the source may be lip service only. 0 marks No relevant application of data.	 understand meanings of poverty or individuals' experiences of poverty. Depth and detail – descriptive data, attitudes and feelings not available from quantitative data.
AO3: Analysis and evaluation Level 4: 5–6 marks The candidate shows an excellent ability to evaluate the use of quantitative data to study poverty in terms of both an advantage and a disadvantage. Both points should be clearly developed and supported by methodological concept(s) and/or theory. At the bottom of the level, one is likely to be less developed.	Any other reasonable response should be rewarded.
Level 3: 4 marks The candidate shows a good ability to evaluate the use of quantitative data to study poverty in terms of both an advantage and a disadvantage, one of which will be supported by methodological concept(s) and or theory. The development of the evaluation is likely to be uneven.	
Level 2: 2–3 marks The candidate shows a basic ability to evaluate quantitative data to study poverty, i.e. a less developed evaluation of both an advantage and a disadvantage. Methodological concept(s) may be undeveloped or implicit. OR a clear and developed evaluation of either an advantage or a disadvantage with methodological concept(s) and theory	
Level 1: 1 mark The candidate shows a limited ability to evaluate quantitative data to study poverty, for example a less developed evaluation in terms of either an	

questionnaires and in-depth interviews. The response lacks range and detail and may occasionally be unclear or inaccurate. Known and understanding of concepts may be part implicit, inaccurate or undeveloped. The information has some relevance and is pro- with limited structure.	I, Č	
Level 1: 1 mark The candidate shows a limited understand questionnaires and in-depth interviews. The response lacks range and detail and may considerable inaccuracy and/or lack of clar The candidate may simply describe the m The information is basic and communicate unstructured way. The information is supp limited evidence and the relationship to the evidence may not be clear.	ow od(s). n an	
0 marks No relevant knowledge or understanding.		
AO2: Application Level 4: 4–5 marks The candidate shows an excellent ability to the use of questionnaires and in-depth int to the context of the research in Source B (researching women's involvement in digiting gaming) in an explicit way. At the top of the application will be wide ranging. The mate	ews Candidates are expected to apply the understanding of questionnaires and these might be useful for researching digital gaming.	in-depth interviews to how
Imaging application will be wide ranging. The material related to the question. Level 3: 3 marks The candidate shows a good ability to related use of questionnaires and in-depth intervious the context of the research in Source B (researching women's involvement in digital context)	he Candidates are expected to apply ma answering the question. For example measure how many females actually interviews could give reasons behind	e questionnaires were used to game whilst the in-depth the statistics, such as women

 question. Level 2: 2 marks The candidate shows a basic ability to relate the use of questionnaires and in-depth interviews to the context of the research in Source B (researching women's involvement in digital gaming). Explicit application is likely to be very narrow. The material is related to the question occasionally and mainly implicitly. Level 1: 1 mark The candidate shows a limited ability to relate the use of questionnaires and in-depth interviews to the context of the research in Source B (researching women's involvement in digital gaming). Typically reference to the source may be lip service only. The material is only implicitly related to the question and mainly irrelevant or of marginal relevance. D marks No relevant sociological application.	
AO3: Analysis and evaluation Level 4: 12–15 marks The candidate shows an excellent ability to evaluate and analyse the usefulness of combining questionnaires and in-depth interviews for researching women's involvement in digital gaming. Responses will include a wide range of explicit and relevant evaluative points and may make some comparison with other methodologies.	AO3: Analysis and evaluation Candidates should discuss the advantages and disadvantages of combining questionnaires and interviews, especially in relation to the concepts of validity, reliability, representativeness and generalisability, and relate this to the context of the question, that of researching women's involvement in digital gaming. Excellent responses should not simply list the advantages and disadvantages of the two methods separately but should offer some evaluation of the benefits of combining the methods.

The evaluation will be sustained, balanced and the discussion will be related to using a combination of questionnaires and in-depth interviews. At the bottom of the level the evaluation may be slightly less developed. The candidate may reach a critical and reasoned conclusion.	 In terms of positive evaluation candidates might include: Questionnaires allow collection of quantitative data, allows researchers to see patterns (e.g. between males and females) in use of digital games, types of games played etc. Questionnaires allow researchers to obtain basic factual
Level 3: 8–11 marks The candidate shows a good ability to evaluate and analyse the usefulness of questionnaires and in-depth interviews for researching women's involvement in digital gaming. Responses will include a range or depth of explicit and relevant evaluative points and may make some comparison with other methodologies. Responses will raise a few clear points of evaluation but may leave these only partially developed. The evaluation is not necessarily balanced. At the top of the level points start to be developed. The candidate may reach a critical but brief conclusion.	 information initially which can be explored in more depth in face-to-face interviews. Questionnaires provide more objective/unbiased data because less chance of interviewer bias. Issues of validity – using in-depth interviews allows respondents to explain their feelings / meanings more fully overcoming possible problems with only using questionnaires. In-depth interviews allow collection of more in-depth/ qualitative data (e.g. about respondents' feelings or experiences of digital games). Combining methods/ triangulation allows for the strengths of one method to compensate for the weaknesses of the other. Allows researchers to address concerns of both positivists and interpretivists.
Level 2: 4–7 marks The candidate shows a basic ability to evaluate and analyse the usefulness of questionnaires and in-depth interviews for researching women's involvement in digital gaming. Responses are likely to offer a few generalised evaluative points with little supporting evidence or argument or listing strengths and weaknesses all undeveloped. If present, different methodological approaches are likely to be juxtaposed simply and/or implicitly. At the bottom of the level there should be at least two evaluative points but these are likely to be undeveloped. If present, the conclusion is likely to be summative. Level 1: 1–3 marks	 Access to subjects for interviews relatively straightforward as derived from sample for questionnaires. Issues of representativeness e.g. relatively large sample obtainable from initial questionnaires. Relatively high in reliability, other researchers could replicate this kind of research. Any other relevant points should be rewarded. In terms of critical points candidates might include: Relatively small sample size for interviews mean they are possibly less representative. Other issues concerning sampling e.g. lack of representativeness due to sampling method. Issues of reliability – Research conducted on young, white university students, other researchers might obtain different

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	The candidate shows a limited ability to evaluate and analyse the usefulness of questionnaires and in-depth interviews for researching women's involvement in digital gaming. Responses should include at least one point of evaluation; however this is likely to be minimal, unbalanced, assertive, one-sided or tangential to the main issue. Evaluation is implicit. There is unlikely to be a conclusion.	 results if conducting similar research Possible ethical issues e.g. need for confidentiality Possibly more time consuming than therefore more costly. Difficulties of analysis e.g. comparing different methods. 	informed consent /
	0 marks No relevant sociological evaluation or analysis.	Any other relevant points should be rew	arded.

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
5 *	Outline ways that age is a form of social inequality in British society today. AO1: Knowledge and understanding Level 4: 10–12 marks The candidate shows an excellent knowledge and understanding of ways that age is a form of social inequality in British society today. The response demonstrates depth and breadth in both a range of areas and sociological evidence, theories and/or concepts; the material is accurate. At the top of the level there will be at least two age groups. At the bottom of the level evidence may be slightly less developed. There is a well- developed line of reasoning which is clear and logically structured. The information presented is relevant and substantiated. Level 3: 7–9 marks The candidate shows a good knowledge and understanding of ways that age is a form of social inequality in British society today. The response shows knowledge and understanding which will demonstrate depth or breadth of areas. There will be a range of sociological evidence, theories and/or concepts but they may not be fully developed. Responses are generally clear and accurate, though may contain some errors. There is a line of reasoning presented with some structure. The information presented is in the most–part relevant and supported by some evidence.	20	 Candidates should show an understanding of the concept of age inequalities. Better answers should address age inequalities at different stages in the life course, for example disadvantages faced by children, young people, the elderly and possibly also those of working age. There are a wide range of possible ways to respond to this question and candidates are only expected to explore some of these. Possible areas of knowledge might include: Age and life chances e.g. influence of child poverty on later life Work related inequalities e.g. restrictions on ability to work for children and elderly. Inequalities of wealth and income related to age e.g. extent of poverty in older and younger age groups. Differences in market situation (including Weberian theory) Differences in status (including exchange theory and labelling theory) Ageism and age discrimination e.g. in the workplace The digital divide Subjective aspects of age and inequality e.g. differences in experience of different groups Extent to which age inequalities affect different groups e.g. genders (including feminist approaches), ethnic groups and social classes. Functionalist views e.g. that age inequalities are necessary and functional. Disengagement theory: age inequalities reflect need to elderly to disengage.

 Level 2: 4–6 marks The candidate shows a basic knowledge and understanding of at least one area and age inequality in British society today. The response lacks depth and breadth. Knowledge and understanding of evidence, theories and concepts may be partial, inaccurate, confused, implicit and/or undeveloped. The information has some relevance and is presented with limited structure. The information is supported by some evidence. Level 1: 1–3 marks The candidate shows limited knowledge and understanding of ways that age is a form of social inequality in British society today. The response may be narrow and undeveloped, and shows considerable inaccuracy and lack of clarity. The information is limited and communicated in an unstructured way. The information is supported by limited evidence and the relationship to the evidence may not be clear. 	 may be advantaged e.g. decline in poverty among elderly, the grey pound, SKIERs etc. Age and inequality e.g. through media representation, crime, family, education. Possible studies/data which might be applied include: Milne et al (divisions among the elderly) Pilcher Moore and Conn (covert participant observation of experience of being elderly) Cummings and Henry (disengagement theory) Phillipson (elderly as reserve army of labour) Itzin (double standards faced by older women) Turner (exchange theory) Gentleman (article on elderly care home) Opinion poll data, e.g. MORI survey of age discrimination Statistical data on age inequalities e.g. IPPR research on youth unemployment, Joseph Rowntree Foundation and CPAG statistics on child poverty. Case study evidence, e.g. Arlene Phillips or Moira Stewart as celebrity cases of alleged age discrimination.
 0 marks No relevant knowledge or understanding AO2: Application Level 4: 7–8 marks The candidate shows an excellent ability to apply sociological knowledge. A wide range of material is explicitly and consistently related to the question. Level 3: 5–6 marks The candidate shows a good ability to apply sociological knowledge. A range of material is explicitly related to the question but this may not be consistently applied. 	

Level 2: 3–4 marks The candidate shows a basic ability to apply sociological knowledge. The material is related to the question occasionally and mainly implicitly.		
Level 1: 1–2 marks The candidate shows a limited ability to apply sociological knowledge. The material is only implicitly related to the question and mainly irrelevant or of marginal relevance.		
0 marks No relevant sociological application.		

Question		on Answer	Marks	Guidance	
6	*	Assess the view that in the UK status and financial rewards are based on individuals' talents and efforts.	40	Candidates should show an understanding that the statement in the question would be broadly supported by functionalist and/or New Right approaches. Postmodernism and Weberianism can be credite depending on its use. Candidates are likely to apply evidence relating the statement in the depending on its use.	
		AO1: Knowledge and understanding Level 4: 13–16 marks The candidate shows an excellent knowledge and		to social class / economic inequalities and answers may also consider the relevance of other types of social inequality, for example gender, ethnicity and possible age.	
		understanding of the view. The response demonstrates knowledge of a wide range of sociological evidence in depth, including clear understanding of sociological concepts and theory; the material is accurate. At the bottom of		 Relevant concepts which could be applied might be: Meritocracy Value consensus 	
		the level evidence may be slightly less developed. There is a well-developed line of reasoning which is clear and logically structured. The information presented is relevant and substantiated.		 Value consensus Functions of social stratification Human capital Natural inequality Underclass 	

Level 3: 9–12 marksThe candidate shows a good knowledge and understanding of the view. The response shows knowledge and understanding which is either wide-ranging or detailed. There will be some understanding of sociological evidence, theory and/or concepts but they may not be fully developed. Responses are generally clear and accurate, though may contain some errors. There is a line of reasoning presented with some structure. The information presented is in the most-part relevant and supported by some evidence.Level 2: 5–8 marks The candidate shows a basic knowledge and understanding of the view. The response lacks range and detail, and may occasionally be unclear or inaccurate, and contain errors. Knowledge and understanding of concepts may be partial, implicit, inaccurate and/or undeveloped. There may be reliance on anecdotal examples. The information has some relevance and is presented with limited structure. The information is supported by limited evidence.Level 1: 1–4 marks The candidate shows a limited knowledge and understanding of the view. The response lacks range and detail, and shows considerable inaccurate and/or undeveloped. There may be reliance on anecdotal examples. The information has some relevance and is presented with limited structure. The information is supported by limited evidence.Level 1: 1–4 marks The candidate shows a limited knowledge and understanding of the view. The response lacks range and detail, and shows considerable inaccuracy and lack of clarity; the candidate may simply describe an aspect of inequality in general. There is likely to be a tendency towards common sense knowledge. The information is basic and communicated in an unstructured way. The information is supported by limited evidence and	 Dependency culture Dysfunctions of stratification/ negative effects of social inequality Class inequality Market situation Status Power/Party Social mobility Social closure Unequal distribution of wealth and income Life chances Absolute and relative poverty Gender inequality Patriarchy Ethnic inequalities Host-immigrant model Age inequalities Gender/ethnic/age discrimination Candidates might cite studies such as the following in support of the statement: Parsons Davis and Moore Schlafly (in relation to gender inequality) Patterson (in relation to gender inequality) Cummings and Henry (in relation to old age) In critical evaluation candidates could draw on a variety of theoretical approaches including: Marxism Weberian theory Feminist theories
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0 marks	the evidence may not be clear. ogical knowledge or	•	 Candidates might also offer evaluative points such as the following: Marxist theory, inequalities related to needs of capitalism rather than meritocracy. Weberian theory, inequalities reflect market situation of different groups e.g. ability of groups to operate closure or exert differing degrees of power in distribution of rewards.
Level 4: 7–8 marl The candidate sho sociological knowl against the view. consistently relate	xs www.an excellent ability to apply edge and evidence both for and The material is explicitly and d to the question.	•	 Growth of economic inequalities seemingly unrelated to distribution of talent or effort e.g. rise of super-rich. Evidence of how life chances are related to class/ gender/ ethnicity rather than meritocracy Data on social mobility e.g. relative mobility rates Data on poverty, e.g. growth of poverty in UK, impact of poverty on
sociological knowl	ows a good ability to apply edge and evidence to the aterial is explicitly related to the	•	 Feminist arguments concerning gender inequalities being linked to patriarchy Links between ethnic inequalities and racism
The candidate sho sociological knowl material is related Level 1: 1–2 mark	ows a basic ability to apply edge to the question. The to the view occasionally.	•	 Dysfunctional aspects of ageism/age inequalities
sociological knowl material is only im	a limited ability to apply edge to the question. The plicitly related to the view and r of marginal relevance.		
No relevant sociol AO3: Analysis ar Level 4: 13–16 m Candidates show	d evaluation		

	wide range of sustained and explicit evaluative arguments with depth. There will be a discussion of different theoretical approaches. At the top of the level answers will reach a conclusion. At the bottom of the level the evaluation may be slightly less developed. The candidate may reach a critical and reasoned conclusion.		
	Level 3: 9–12 marks Candidates show a good ability to evaluate and analyse the view. Responses will demonstrate range or depth of evaluation. At the top of the level there will be some discussion of different sociological evidence. The candidate may reach a brief conclusion.		
	Level 2: 5–8 marks Candidates show a basic ability to evaluate and analyse the view. The response lacks range and depth. Responses are likely to offer a few generalised, evaluative points with little supporting evidence or argument. If present, different sociological evidence is likely to be juxtaposed simply and implicitly. If present, the conclusion is likely to be summative.		
	Level 1: 1–4 marks Candidates show a limited ability to evaluate the view. Evaluation is implicit, minimal, assertive, inaccurate or tangential to the main issue. There is unlikely to be a conclusion.		
	0 marks No relevant sociological evaluation or analysis		

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