



GCE AS/A LEVEL

2200U20-1



S24-2200U20-1

TUESDAY, 21 MAY 2024 – MORNING

SOCIOLOGY – AS unit 2
Understanding Society and Methods of
Sociological Enquiry

2 hours

2200U201
01

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **all** parts of question one in Section A.

Answer **one** question from Section B.

Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 90 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

Read the following item and answer **each** part of the following question.

Compulsory question

Gang Talk: London street gangs

To discover what being in a 'gang' means to the members, Densley and Stevens carried out ethnographic research. This involved studying gang members in their natural settings such as cafés and parks. They aimed to collect qualitative rather than quantitative data and therefore chose in-depth interviews and observations, rather than structured interviews. They used snowball sampling and found 52 gang members from 12 inner city gangs, despite this sampling technique raising issues of **generalisability**.

Adapted from Densley and Stevens (2015): Gang Talk: fact and fiction in London street gang careers.
February (2017) Sociology Review

Answer each part of the following question.

1. (a) Using material from the item and sociological knowledge, explain the meaning of the term **generalisability**. [5]
- (b) Using material from the item and sociological knowledge, explain **two** possible reasons why some sociologists adopt an ethnographic approach in their research. [10]
- (c) With reference to the item and sociological studies, discuss the strengths and weaknesses of structured interviews. [20]

Section B

Answer **one** of the following options.

Option 1 Education

Compulsory question

2. (a) Study the following item and answer both parts of question 2(a).

Young Peoples' Participation in Higher Education: a comparison between those who had been eligible for free school meals (FSM) and those who were not eligible

% Entered HE by age 19

| FSM Status | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| FSM pupils | 21.3% | 22.3% | 24.1% | 25.7% | 26.2% | 26.3% |
| Non FSM pupils | 38.8% | 39.1% | 41.6% | 43.3% | 43.9% | 44.9% |
| All pupils | 36.6% | 36.8% | 39.2% | 40.7% | 41.2% | 42.2% |

Source: Published 17 December 2019, the Department for Education

- (i) Summarise the content of the chart showing the relationship between participation in higher education and eligibility and non-eligibility for free school meals. [10]
- (ii) Explain **two** sociological reasons for the relationship between free school meals and participation in higher education. [15]

Either,

- (b) Discuss sociological explanations of gender differences in educational achievement. [30]

Or,

- (c) Assess interactionist views of educational achievement. [30]

Option 2 Media

Compulsory question

3. (a) Study the following item and answer both parts of question 3(a).

Representations of black young males in media news stories in comparison to all young males

| Theme of news story | Percentage of stories referring to black young males % | Percentage of stories referring to all young males % |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Crime | 66.9 | 41.9 |
| Discrimination | 5.2 | 0.4 |
| Gangs, violence, weapons in schools | 4.0 | 1.2 |
| Positive youth achievement | 3.8 | 6.2 |
| Role models | 2.4 | 0.5 |
| Education | 1.6 | 10.8 |
| Charitable activity | 1.4 | 6.9 |
| Family | 1.4 | 2.5 |

The percentages do not add up to 100%

Source: Adapted from Media representations of black young men and boys, REACH media monitoring project, Cardiff University 2011

- (i) Summarise the content of the chart comparing news stories involving black young males with stories involving all young males. [10]
- (ii) Explain **two** sociological reasons for media representations of black and minority ethnic groups. [15]

Either,

- (b) Discuss sociological explanations of the ownership and control of the media. [30]

Or,

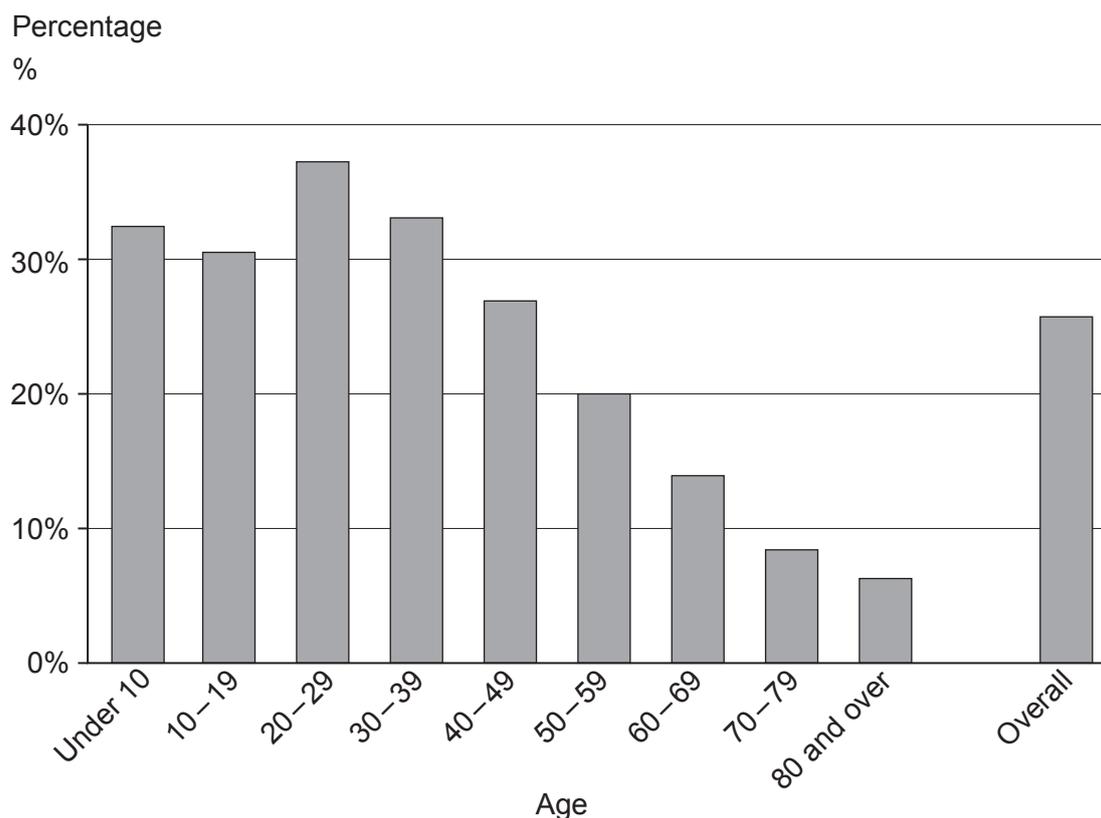
- (c) Assess feminist views of media representations of gender. [30]

Option 3 Religion

Compulsory question

4. (a) Study the following item and answer both parts of question 4(a).

Percentage of those living in the UK who said they had no religion – Census, 2011



Source: press release by Lancaster University; Religion Watch Vol 29, No 1, Nov 2013

- (i) Summarise the content of the graph on the percentage of people who said they had no religion in the 2011 Census. [10]
- (ii) There is a relationship between religious belief and age in the UK. Explain **two** sociological reasons for this relationship. [15]

Either,

- (b) Discuss the view that religion is a conservative force in society. [30]

Or,

- (c) Assess feminist views of religion. [30]

END OF PAPER

BLANK PAGE

BLANK PAGE

BLANK PAGE