



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

AS Level Sociology

H180/02 Researching and understanding social inequalities

Tuesday 22 May 2018 – Morning

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes



You must have:

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet
(OCR12 sent with general stationery)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Answer **all** the questions.
- Write your answers in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Do **not** write in the barcodes.

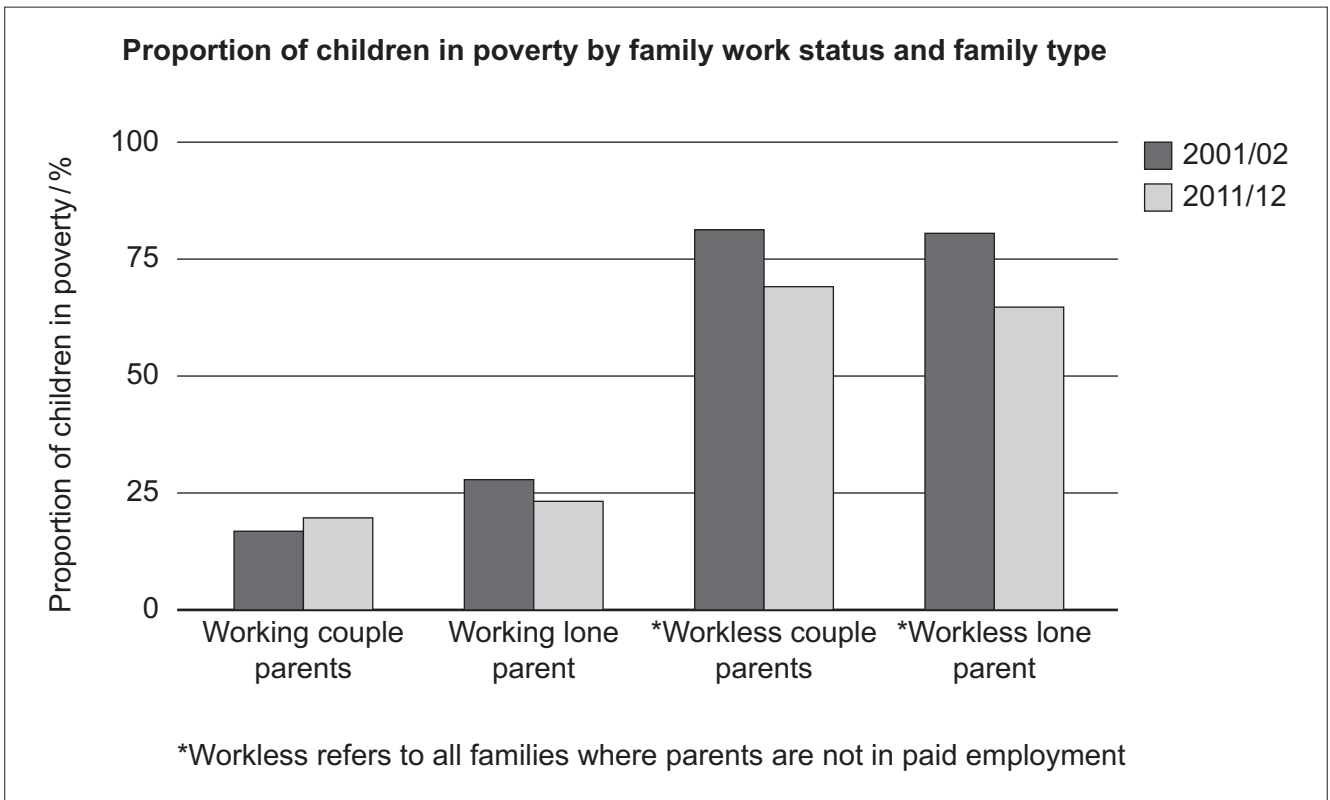
INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **75**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].
- Quality of extended responses will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).
- This document consists of **4** pages.

SECTION A

Read the source material and answer **all** the questions in Section A.

Source A



Source: adapted from 'Households Below Average Income (HBAI)',
Department for Work and Pensions

Source B**A study of people in low-paid informal work**

Dennis Katungi, Emma Neale and Aaron Barbour carried out a study of people in low-paid informal work in a London borough on behalf of the charity, The Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Informal work includes working 'cash-in-hand' as this is undeclared it usually means working illegally without paying tax. This work is then unregulated and employees often do not have the rights of other workers such as minimum wage, pensions and sick pay. Informal work is usually hidden from official government agencies and so is not normally recorded in official statistics.

Katungi and his colleagues used qualitative interviews in their research and tried to recruit participants to reflect a wide range of characteristics. The researchers used a snowball sampling technique but made use of a range of starting points to build up several snowball samples so they could capture a wide range of views and to try to avoid any bias. The starting points included local residents contacted through a variety of organisations. Leaflets, posters and advertisements requesting volunteers were put in advice centres, doctors' surgeries, post offices, libraries, leisure centres and in the local newspaper. Each person interviewed was asked to pass on cards with interviewers' contact details to others engaged in low-paid informal work in order to build up the sample.

Interviewers were recruited from the local community and had to be able to speak another language as well as English. They were trained in interviewing and information-recording skills. The fact that interviewers were seen as working for a charity helped to gain the trust of interviewees who probably would not have spoken so openly about their informal paid work to officials from government agencies.

Initially one hundred people were interviewed face-to-face. Researchers undertook semi-structured interviews to gather qualitative data. They used a topic guide to ensure they all covered the same issues. Each interview was conducted one-to-one in a space that the interviewee chose and felt comfortable in. Following the one-to-one interviews four focus groups (interviews in small groups) were held, each consisted of between six and twelve people. Two of the focus groups involved people who had already been interviewed. This gave them a further opportunity to discuss in groups issues arising from the individual interviews. The other two focus groups were a new sample of policymakers and local service providers, for example people who worked in voluntary organisations and charities. They were asked to put forward suggestions for policies to improve the lives of people undertaking informal work.

The research found that informal work is mostly undertaken by people who live in poverty as a means of ensuring they have sufficient income for basics such as food, heating or rent. However, some participants reported that they felt exploited by their employers working long hours for little pay.

Adapted from: Katungi D., Neale E., and Barbour A.,(2006) *People in low-paid informal work 'Need not greed'* (Bristol: The Policy Press)

Answer **all** the questions in Section A.

- 1 Describe **two** conclusions which could be drawn from the data in **Source A** about family types and poverty. [4]
- 2* Using **Source A**, explain why researchers may make use of official statistics to study poverty. [9]
- 3* Using **Source B** and your wider sociological knowledge, explain why researchers might use snowball sampling to study people undertaking low-paid informal work. [12]
- 4* Using **Source B** and your wider sociological knowledge, explain and evaluate the use of qualitative methods to research people undertaking low-paid informal work. [20]

SECTION B

Answer **all** the questions in Section B.

- 5* Outline **two** areas of social life where gender inequality exists in the contemporary UK. [10]
- 6* Evaluate the usefulness of Marxist explanations for understanding social class inequalities in the contemporary UK. [20]

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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