



GCE AS/A level

1352/01



S15-1352-01

SOCIOLOGY – SY2
UNIT 2: Understanding Culture

A.M. THURSDAY, 21 May 2015

1 hour 30 minutes

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **question 1** and **one** other question.

You are advised to divide your time according to the mark allocation given.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

You are reminded that assessment will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

Credit will be given for reference to recent public debate and research publications.

Compulsory

1. Look at the item below and answer the following questions.

Sociologists often face practical difficulties when conducting research. For example, some social groups may not have the opportunity to be included in research and so their voices are not heard.

In 2009, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation studied social problems experienced by some of those people who are difficult to access; people such as ex-offenders or the disabled.

Sampling involved approaching social organisations who support members of these groups. This sampling technique created practical problems because not all ex-offenders or disabled people belong to support groups. This meant that the research was not entirely representative of all hard to access groups.

Adapted from Living with Social Evils

- (a) Using material from the item and elsewhere, explain the meaning of the term **sampling**.
[10]
- (b) With reference to the item and sociological studies, explain some of the practical issues that researchers can face when conducting research.
[20]

Choose **one** question from the following options.

Either,

Education

2. (a) Outline and explain what is meant by anti-school subcultures. [20]
(b) Discuss the view that social class is the most important factor affecting the educational attainment of children. [40]

Or,

Religion

3. (a) Outline and explain what is meant by the term spirituality. [20]
(b) Discuss the Marxist view of religion. [40]

Or,

Mass Media

4. (a) Outline and explain what is meant by the term agenda setting. [20]
(b) Discuss the view that news is socially constructed. [40]

END OF PAPER