



GCE A LEVEL

A200U20-1



**SOCIOLOGY – A level component 2
Methods of Sociological Enquiry**

WEDNESDAY, 13 JUNE 2018 – MORNING

1 hour 45 minutes

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A WJEC 16-page pink answer booklet.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **all** questions.

Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided.

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 60 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.

Answer **all** questions.

Read the item and answer each part of the following questions.

Gang leader for a day

Sudhir Venkatesh wanted to find out how it felt to be black and poor, living in a Chicago housing project. The first method he used was a questionnaire. One of his questions was 'how does it feel to be black and poor?'. The local residents did not take too kindly to this question, and as a result, Venkatesh was held hostage overnight. The leader of a gang in the area, known as the Black Kings told him if he wanted to know what it was really like he needed to 'hang out' with the gang. This gave him the opportunity to develop his research into an ethnographic study. With the gang's permission he spent nearly eight years overtly observing them. He was even allowed to be the gang leader for a day, therefore, putting himself in the gang leader's shoes.

Adapted from Gang Leader for a Day, Venkatesh, S. (2009)

1. (a) Using material from the item and sociological knowledge, explain what is meant by the term ethnographic study. [5]
 - (b) Explain **one** reason why the researcher used overt observation in his research. [5]
 - (c) With reference to the item and sociological studies, discuss the strengths and weaknesses of using questionnaires in sociological research. [20]
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2. As an A Level Sociology student, you have been asked to design a research project to collect data on the amount of regular exercise undertaken amongst a sample of elderly people in your local area.
 - Describe each stage of your research design, justifying the reasons for your choices at each stage.
 - Discuss problems that may occur and the impact of these problems on the quality of the data collected. [30]

END OF PAPER