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# A-level SOCIOLOGY

## Paper 1 Education with Theory and Methods

Wednesday 20 May 2020

Morning

Time allowed: 2 hours

### Materials

You will need no other materials.

### Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Fill in the boxes at the top of this page.
- Answer **all** questions.
- You must answer the questions in the spaces provided. Do not write outside the box around each page or on blank pages.
- Do all rough work in this book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- Questions carrying 10 marks or more should be answered in continuous prose. In these questions you will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

For Examiner's Use	
Question	Mark
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Outline **three** functions that the education system performs for society.

**[6 marks]**

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**0** **3**Read **Item A** below and answer the question that follows.**Item A**

Businesses compete with each other to attract customers. Another route to success for businesses is to provide unique products for their customers.

The introduction of marketisation policies into the state education system means that schools are run like businesses.

Applying material from **Item A**, analyse **two** ways in which marketisation policies have led to schools being run like businesses.

**[10 marks]**

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**0 4**

Read **Item B** below and answer the question that follows.

**Item B**

The patterns of educational achievement by gender have changed over time. Some sociologists explain these patterns through factors external to schools, such as socialisation and parental attitudes towards education. Changes in wider society, such as employment opportunities, may also contribute to these patterns.

However, the way schools are organised and the social interactions that take place within schools are also likely to affect gender differences in educational achievement.

Applying material from **Item B** and your knowledge, evaluate sociological explanations of gender differences in educational achievement.

**[30 marks]**

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**Methods in Context**

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**0 5** Read **Item C** below and answer the question that follows.

**Item C**

Pupils behave in many different ways in schools. Some pupils conform to school rules, for example by wearing the correct uniform and completing tasks set, whilst others break school rules. Interactions between teachers and pupils, and between peers, are likely to influence behaviour. Sociologists are interested in researching patterns of pupil behaviour, particularly disruptive behaviour.

One way of studying pupil behaviour in schools is to use non-participant observation. Pupils are often observed during the course of a school day. One advantage of non-participant observation is that the sociologist can observe behaviour both inside and outside classrooms. Non-participant observation allows behaviour categories to be decided before the observation begins. However, behaviour may not be classified in the same way by different researchers.

Applying material from **Item C** and your knowledge of research methods, evaluate the strengths and limitations of using non-participant observation to investigate pupil behaviour in schools.

**[20 marks]**

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### Theory and Methods

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Outline and explain **two** problems of using primary qualitative methods in sociological research.

**[10 marks]**

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