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# AS SOCIOLOGY (7191/2)

Paper 2 Research Methods and Topics in Sociology

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Specimen 2016

Morning

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

## Materials

For this paper you must have:

- An AQA 12-page answer book.

## Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7191/2.
- Answer **all** questions in Section A and **all** questions from **one** topic in Section B.
- Do all rough work in your answer 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 60.
  - 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.
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**Section A****Research Methods**

Answer **all** questions in this section.

0	1
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Outline **two** advantages of using postal questionnaires in sociological research.

**[4 marks]**

0	2
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Evaluate the view that practical factors are the most important influence when selecting research methods.

**[16 marks]**

## Section B

Choose **one** topic from this section and answer **all** the questions on that topic.

### Topic B1 Culture and Identity

0 3

Define the term 'socialisation'.

[2 marks]

0 4

Using **one** example, briefly explain how a subculture differs from mainstream culture.

[2 marks]

0 5

Outline **three** sources from which ethnic groups may construct their identity.

[6 marks]

0 6

Outline and explain **two** ways in which an individual's social experiences may be shaped by their sexuality.

[10 marks]

0 7

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

#### Item A

Postmodernist views of society include the idea that people are able to create their own identity. In the past social class was a significant factor in shaping social identity, but according to postmodernists this is no longer the case. For other sociologists, social class is still important and class divisions are becoming more significant and not less.

Applying material from **Item A** and your knowledge, evaluate the view that social class is no longer a significant factor in shaping social identity.

[20 marks]

Turn over for the next Topic

## Topic B2 Families and Households

0	8
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Define the term 'social construction of childhood'.

[2 marks]

0	9
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Using **one** example, briefly explain how individuals may have significant personal relationships besides those relationships with family members.

[2 marks]

1	0
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Outline **three** reasons for the fall in the birth rate since 1900.

[6 marks]

1	1
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Outline and explain **two** ways in which the divorce rate may have been affected by social changes **apart from** divorce legislation.

[10 marks]

1	2
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Read **Item B** below and answer the question that follows.

### Item B

Feminists take a critical view of the family. They argue that family life maintains and promotes gender inequality. For example, this is reflected in the domestic division of labour. However, some sociologists suggest that feminist theories ignore the extent of family diversity and the variation in family roles and relationships.

Applying material from **Item B** and your knowledge, evaluate the contribution of feminist views to an understanding of family roles and relationships.

[20 marks]

### Topic B3 Health

1	3
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Define the term 'morbidity'.

[2 marks]

1	4
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Using **one** example, briefly explain how health services can help to prevent illness or disease.

[2 marks]

1	5
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Outline **three** reasons why working-class people may have higher levels of ill health than middle-class people.

[6 marks]

1	6
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Outline and explain **two** ways in which improvements in living standards have been responsible for improvements in health.

[10 marks]

1	7
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Read **Item C** below and answer the question that follows.

#### Item C

Many sociologists argue that health and illness are socially constructed and relative. That is, what counts as health and illness varies from place to place, time to time and group to group. Different cultures have different views of what it means to be sick or healthy, and of what causes illness.

Similarly different groups within the same society may have different views of health and illness.

Applying material from **Item C** and your knowledge, evaluate the view that health and illness are socially constructed.

[20 marks]

**Turn over for the next Topic**

### Topic B4 Work, Poverty and Welfare

1	8
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Define the term 'alienation'.

[2 marks]

1	9
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Using **one** example, briefly explain how informal carers may provide day to day support for people in need.

[2 marks]

2	0
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Outline **three** effects of unemployment on individuals.

[6 marks]

2	1
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Outline and explain **two** ways in which poverty may be passed on from one generation to the next.

[10 marks]

2	2
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Read **Item D** below and answer the question that follows.

#### Item D

Some writers, especially those from a New Right perspective have expressed concerns about the cost of welfare. They argue that universal benefits are too costly and a waste of money. They would prefer a smaller welfare state targeted at the poorest members of society.

Applying material from **Item D** and your knowledge, evaluate the view that welfare benefits should be targeted at the poor rather than available to everyone.

[20 marks]

**END OF QUESTIONS**