



General Certificate of Secondary Education  
June 2013

# Sociology

# 41901

## Unit 1

**Friday 17 May 2013 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm**

**For this paper you must have:**

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

### Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 minutes

### Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Examining Body** for this paper is AQA. The **Paper Reference** is 41901.
- This paper is divided into **three** Topic Areas.

Topic 1: Answer **all** questions.

Topic 2: Answer **all** questions in Section 1 **and one** question from Section 2.

Topic 3: Answer **all** questions in Section 3 **and one** question from Section 4.

- 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 90.
- Questions carrying 12 marks 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.

### Advice

- You are advised to spend about **30 minutes** answering each of the **three** topics.

## Topic 1: Studying Society

You must answer **all** questions on this topic.

**Total for this topic: 30 marks**

Study **Items A, B and C** and answer the questions that follow.

### Item A

A survey in 2011 asked whether teachers should have more authority in the classroom.

**Percentage who agreed that teachers should be allowed to be tougher when it comes to discipline**

	Parents	Children
Agree	91%	62%
Disagree	6%	24%
No opinion/don't know	3%	14%

### Item B

**Exploring relations between male and female teachers and primary schoolchildren**



A great deal of concern has been expressed in recent years about the educational performance of boys. Some sociologists have suggested that it is important that boys have male 'role models'. A shortage of male teachers in primary schools has led to government attempts to recruit more male staff, in a bid to make schools more representative.

In 2006, Christine Skelton wanted to investigate whether matching pupils and teachers by gender has any impact. In particular, she wanted to see whether pupils felt more inspired by having teachers of the same gender. Her research involved spending time observing pupils and teachers in the classroom.

Altogether, a total of 51 Year 3 classes took part in the study, comprising 307 pupils (153 boys and 154 girls) and 51 teachers (26 male and 25 female).

### Item C

#### Inspecting standards in schools

Ofsted has changed the way it carries out its school inspections. Inspections focus on four key aspects: the achievement of pupils, the standard of teaching, the standard of a school's leadership, and the behaviour of pupils at a school.

Inspections involve looking at a wide range of qualitative and quantitative data, observing a sample of lessons, analysing findings from questionnaires given to parents and pupils, as well as interviewing staff and pupils. Once inspections are completed, schools are graded on a scale from 1 to 4.

- 0 | 1** From **Item A**, what percentage of children agreed that teachers should be allowed to be tougher when it comes to discipline? *(1 mark)*
- 0 | 2** From **Item B**, identify the research method used by Christine Skelton. *(1 mark)*
- 0 | 3** Give **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of using Christine Skelton's research method referred to in **Item B**. *(2 marks)*
- 0 | 4** Describe how journalists may approach the issue of pupil behaviour in British schools differently from sociologists. *(4 marks)*
- 0 | 5** Explain what sociologists mean by gender role models. *(4 marks)*
- 0 | 6** Study **Item C**. Explain why sociologists may use qualitative data as opposed to quantitative data when researching standards in schools. *(4 marks)*

#### You have been asked as a sociologist to investigate pupil behaviour in British schools.

- 0 | 7** Identify a primary research method that you could use **and** explain why it would be a good method for your investigation. *(4 marks)*
- 0 | 8** Identify **one** ethical issue that you may need to consider **and** explain how you could deal with this issue in your investigation. *(4 marks)*
- 0 | 9** Identify **one** sampling method that you could use **and** explain why it is better than another possible sampling method for your investigation. *(6 marks)*

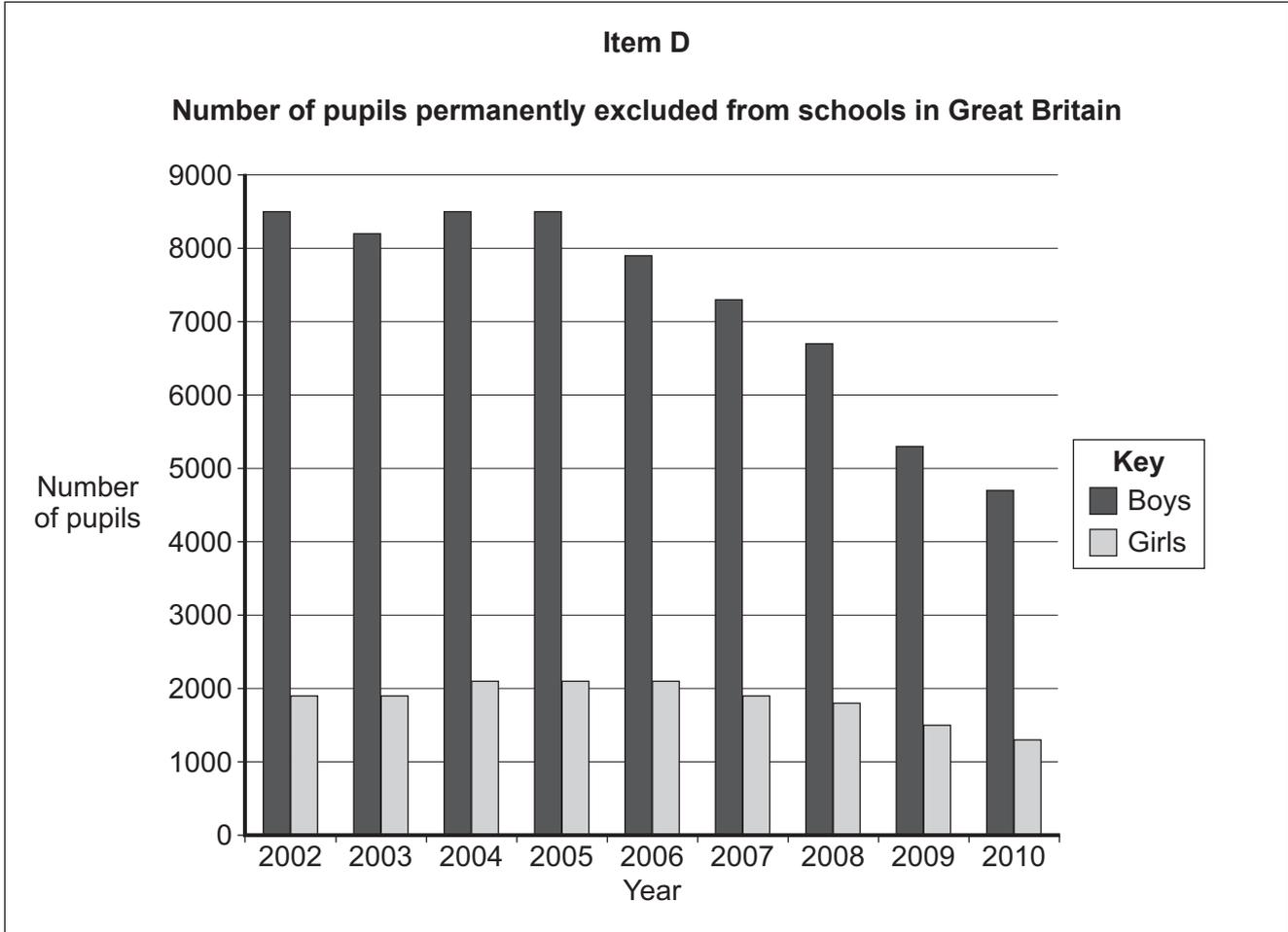
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## Topic 2: Education

Answer **all** questions in **Section 1** and **one** question from **Section 2**.

**Total for this topic: 30 marks**

Study **Items D and E** and answer the questions that follow.



### Item E

#### Bosses say school leavers lack basic skills

A survey of business leaders suggests that too many young people are leaving school without adequate basic skills. More than four out of ten bosses are unhappy with young people's use of English, while 35% complain about poor numeracy skills.

With only 45% of pupils in England achieving a grade C or better in GCSE English and GCSE Maths, the Department for Education said that business leaders were right to be concerned.

Business leaders said that young people also lacked important workplace skills, such as organising their time and dealing with customers.

**Section 1**

- 1 0** From **Item D**, between 2002 and 2010, were more boys or more girls permanently excluded from school? *(1 mark)*
- 1 1** From **Item E**, what percentage of pupils in England were achieving a grade C or better in GCSE English and GCSE Maths? *(1 mark)*
- 1 2** Identify **two** reasons why parents may choose to educate their children at home. *(2 marks)*
- 1 3** Explain what sociologists studying education mean by material deprivation. *(4 marks)*
- 1 4** Describe **one** type of secondary school found in Britain **and** explain how it is different from **one other** type of secondary school. *(5 marks)*
- 1 5** Describe **one** government policy of the past 20 years which has attempted to improve educational opportunities for pupils from less wealthy backgrounds **and** explain how successful this policy has been. *(5 marks)*

**Section 2****EITHER**

- 1 6** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that pupils' gender is the main reason for differences in their educational achievement. *(12 marks)*

**OR**

- 1 7** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the main function of schools is to prepare pupils for the workplace. *(12 marks)*

**Turn over for the next topic**

**Turn over ►**

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**Topic 3: Families**

Answer **all** questions in **Section 3** and **one** question from **Section 4**.

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**Total for this topic: 30 marks**

Study **Items F and G** and answer the questions that follow.

**Item F****The rise of the stay-at-home dad**

A 2010 survey has revealed that there are now ten times as many stay-at-home dads as there were a decade ago. The findings suggest that there are 1.4 million men who are primary carers for their children. This suggests that fathers are more willing to give up being the family breadwinner and instead take on responsibility for running the home.

**Item G****The role of grandparents in families**

In 2009, 63% of grandparents looked after their grandchildren, with 19% of grandmothers and 14% of grandfathers providing at least 10 hours a week of childcare.

Much of the childcare provided by grandparents was undertaken to enable parents, especially mothers, to work. 50% of mothers relied on grandparents to look after their babies when they returned to work.

**Section 3**

- 1 8** From **Item F**, how many men were primary carers for their children in 2010? (1 mark)
- 1 9** From **Item G**, what percentage of grandmothers provided at least 10 hours a week of childcare? (1 mark)
- 2 0** Identify **two** family types found in Britain. (2 marks)
- 2 1** Explain what sociologists mean by the domestic division of labour. (4 marks)
- 2 2** Describe **one** way in which relations between parents and their children have changed in the past 50 years **and** explain why this change has happened. (5 marks)
- 2 3** Describe the functionalist approach to the family **and** explain how it differs from **one other** sociological approach. (5 marks)

**Section 4****EITHER**

- 2 4** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the roles of men and women in the family have changed significantly in the past 50 years. (12 marks)

**OR**

- 2 5** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that extended family members play an important role in British families. (12 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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**There are no questions printed on this page**

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- Item A: adapted from *YouGov Survey Results* (Client - TES), [www.yougov.com](http://www.yougov.com), 2011.
- Item B: photo © Getty Images.  
Text adapted from *Investigating Gender as a Factor in Primary Pupil-Teacher Relations & Perceptions*, CHRISTINE SKELTON, ESRC, 2006.
- Item D: adapted from *UK School Exclusions*, GUY PALMER, The Poverty Site, [www.poverty.org.uk](http://www.poverty.org.uk).
- Item E: adapted from *School leavers lacking basic skills, bosses group says*, HANNAH RICHARDSON, [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk) .
- Item F: photo © Getty Images.  
Text adapted from *Stay-at-home dads on the up: one in seven fathers are main childcarers*, MARK KING, The Guardian.  
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- Item G: adapted from *Doing it all?*, SARAH WELLARD, Grandparents Plus, 2011.