

OCR

Oxford Cambridge and RSA

AS Level Sociology H180/02 Researching and understanding social inequalities

Sample Question Paper
Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

You must have:

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet
(OCR12 sent with general stationery)



INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Answer **all** the questions.
- Write your answers in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Do **not** write in the bar codes.

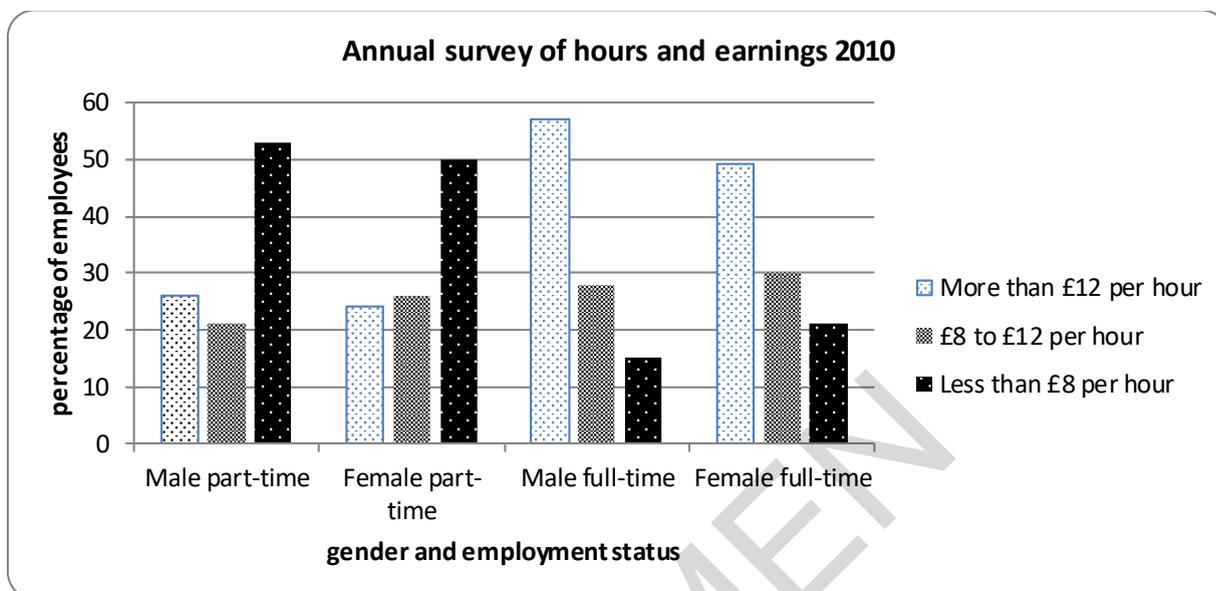
INFORMATION

- The total number of marks for this paper is **75**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].
- Quality of extended responses will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).
- This document consists of **4** pages.

SECTION A

Read the Source material and answer **all** the questions in Section A.

Source A



Source B

The effect of poverty on young children's experiences of school

This research aimed to explore whether there were significant differences in the way pupils from poor and better-off backgrounds viewed education. The research, carried out by Horgan, also aimed to examine the economic pressures on parents to provide educational support. Finally, she wanted to explore how teachers and head teachers explained educational disadvantage in relation to levels of parental income.

The researchers used a purposive sampling technique to select the schools and pupils. They deliberately focused on disadvantaged schools rather than individuals in order to avoid negatively labelling children who were living in poverty. "Disadvantaged schools" were operationalised on the basis of the proportion of children who were in receipt of free school meals (FSMs). In the disadvantaged schools, between 50% and 75% of pupils were on FSMs compared with 3% to 14% in the advantaged schools.

Horgan carried out group interviews with 220 children aged between four and eleven in both advantaged and disadvantaged primary schools in Northern Ireland. Their parents, teachers and head teachers were also questioned, using a semi-structured interview technique. In the group interviews, children between five and eight were asked questions by a cartoon character about their experience of school, while nine to eleven year olds were asked a series of open-ended questions about the impact of poverty on three fictional characters using a series of short stories and photographs. The children were also asked about the importance of education to them. The interview data was then analysed to see what it showed about the impact of poverty on their school lives.

Source: Adapted from: Horgan, G (2007) The impact of poverty on young children's experience of school. York: Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Answer **all** the questions in Section A.

- 1 Describe **two** findings from the data in Source A. [4]
- 2 With reference to Source B, explain why sociologists operationalise concepts. [9]*
- 3 With reference to Source A, explain why official statistics are used in sociological research. [12]*
- 4 Using Source B and your wider sociological knowledge, explain and evaluate the use of interviews for researching the effect of poverty on young children's experiences of school. [20]*

SECTION B

Answer **all** the questions in Section B.

- 5 Describe **two** ways in which males are disadvantaged. [10]*
- 6 Evaluate the functionalist view that the roles of men and women should be different. [20]*

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