OCR
Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Tuesday 13 October 2020 – Morning
AS Level Sociology

H180/02 Researching and understanding social inequalities

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

> **You must have:**
> • the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

INSTRUCTIONS
- Use black ink.
- Write your answer to each question in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Fill in the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.
- Answer **all** the questions.

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

ADVICE
- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

2

SECTION A

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

Source A

Female and male life expectancy at birth by NS-SEC class, 2007 to 2011, England and Wales			
Class	Class label	Female life expectancy in years	Male life expectancy in years
1	Higher Managerial and Professional (HMP)	85.2	82.5
2	Lower Managerial and Professional (LMP)	84.2	80.8
3	Intermediate	83.9	80.4
4	Small Employers Own Account Workers (SEOAW)	83.5	80.0
5	Lower Supervisory and Technical (LST)	81.9	78.9
6	Semi-Routine	81.7	77.9
7	Routine	80.8	76.6
	England and Wales average	82.4	79.1

The table above shows statistics for life expectancy at birth (the average number of years a person can expect to live at the time of their birth). The statistics are broken down by gender and by NS-SEC social classes. The NS-SEC classification is used in official statistics and is a way of classifying people into social classes based on their occupations.

Adapted from: Office for National Statistics (2015)

Source B

A study of gender roles among young Indian couples

Katherine Twamley carried out research in the UK and India on young heterosexual Indian couples originating from the Indian state of Gujarat. She aimed to investigate the extent to which couples in each country were in favour of equality between men and women.

Twamley's main method of data collection consisted of in-depth interviews with 18 main participants in India in 2007 and 12 in England in 2008. To collect her sample she used a form of opportunity sampling, recruiting participants who had the characteristics she was looking for through a range of sources, including the local university, a dance class and chance meetings. She also used key informants to put her in touch with participants who might be suitable to add to her sample. Because she wanted to focus on pre and early marriage, Twamley recruited participants aged between 20 and 30 years of age who were in various stages of relationships; a third were in a relationship but not yet married, a third were married and around a third were still single. All participants were of a middle class background, and predominantly Hindu.

Twamley conducted a minimum of three interviews with each main participant. These interviews followed a flexible semi-structured topic guide; the first two interviews addressed family background, upbringing, parents' marriage, friendships and relationship experiences. The third interview addressed issues around sexuality and physical intimacy. Participating couples were interviewed together in the first interview and separately in subsequent interviews. The initial interview with both partners allowed her to see the couples' shared views of their relationship and also gave a glimpse into how the couple act around one another. Later separate interviews gave them a chance to voice issues they may not have felt comfortable speaking about in front of one another.

All that were interviewed, whether from India or the UK, male or female, claimed to believe in the principle of equality. However, participants also subscribed to the idea of the woman as carer and the man as 'breadwinner'. While such a division was not always present at the time of the interviews, it was expected that, after having children, the roles of husband and wife would become more 'traditional'. Whether UK-based women really preferred to stay at home was not clear. They seemed to change opinions over the course of the interviews. Similarly, many of the men claimed to want an equal relationship with their wives but also described themselves as the 'head of the household'.

Twamley did reflect on her findings and state that these opinions from the sample may be subject to change over time. For example, the married sample were newly married which may have meant their views may change when they were married for longer. Overall, Twamley concluded that the sample did all value intimacy and respect in relationships, however there were discrepancies between stating they valued equality and the reality of the roles they had in their lives.

4

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

1   Using data from **Source A**, describe **two** conclusions that could be drawn about the relationship between social class, gender and life expectancy.   **[4]**

2*   With reference to **Source A**, explain why official statistics on life expectancy might provide objective data on social class and gender differences.   **[9]**

3*   With reference to **Source B** and your wider sociological knowledge, explain the problems of using opportunity sampling.   **[12]**

4*   Using **Source B** and your wider sociological knowledge, explain and evaluate the use of semi-structured interviews to investigate gender roles among young heterosexual couples.   **[20]**

SECTION B

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

5*   Outline **two** ways in which women are disadvantaged compared with men in the workplace.   **[10]**

6*   Assess the usefulness of functionalist theories for understanding class inequalities in UK society today.   **[20]**

END OF QUESTION PAPER