

Centre Number						Candidate Number				
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For Examiner's Use	
Examiner's Initials	
Question	Mark
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General Certificate of Secondary Education
June 2015

Sociology

41901

Unit 1 Studying Society; Education; Families

Monday 11 May 2015 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

You will need no other materials.

Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Fill in the boxes at the top of this page.
- This paper is divided into **three** topics.
 - 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.
- 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 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.

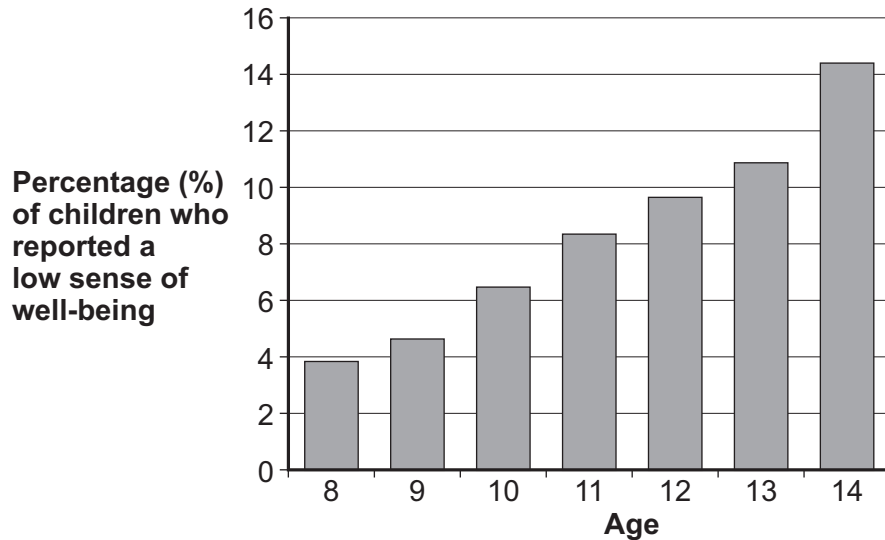


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Topic 1 Studying Society

Study **Items A and B** (below), and **Item C** (page 4).

Answer **all** questions that follow in the spaces provided.

Item A**Age differences in children's sense of well-being****Item B****Measuring children's happiness and well-being**

In 2009, Professor Nick Buck wanted to find out how happy children were with their lives and what was important to their overall well-being. To do this he gave a questionnaire to a sample of 2613 young people from the United Kingdom.



1 From **Item A**, what is the trend in children’s low sense of well-being? (Tick the correct box.)

[1 mark]

Decreasing with age

Increasing with age

Stable

2 From **Item B**, identify the research method used by Professor Nick Buck.

[1 mark]

.....

3 Give **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of using the research method referred to in **Item B**.

[2 marks]

Advantage

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Disadvantage

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4 Describe how psychologists may approach a study of childhood happiness and well-being differently from sociologists.

[4 marks]

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Item C

Children’s worries about bullying

Being bullied at school and on social media are real concerns for many children in Britain. ChildLine says it has seen a large increase in the number of children contacting it with concerns about online bullying. It saw 4507 cases of cyberbullying in 2012–13, up from 2410 in 2011–12.

Reacting to this, the Government has strengthened the powers schools need to tackle bullying. It stated that every school must have sanctions as part of its behaviour policy to prevent bullying.

5 Study **Item C**. Explain what sociologists mean by sanctions.

[4 marks]

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6 Explain **one** way in which sociological research might help the Government **and/or** schools design policies to reduce the number of children being bullied.

[4 marks]

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You have been asked as a sociologist to investigate the extent of bullying in British schools.

7 Identify what sociologists mean by official statistics **and** explain why these may or may not be useful for your investigation.

[4 marks]

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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]

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9 Identify **one** primary research method that you might use **and** explain why it is better than another possible primary research method for your investigation.

[6 marks]

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Topic 2 Education

Study **Items D and E** (below).

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

Item D

Academy schools

Academies are non-charging state schools which receive their funding directly from the Department for Education. They have more freedom than other state schools over their finances, curriculum, length of terms and school days.

The Government believes that academies will improve standards. However, some academies have been accused of controlling admissions to improve results. Critics of academies have also suggested that some of the companies which run them are more interested in taking over additional schools rather than improving their existing schools.

Item E

PISA tests: UK ranking in world education league tables

The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a worldwide study of 15-year-old school pupils' educational performance in mathematics, science, and reading. The PISA tests are taken by 500 000 secondary school pupils in 65 countries. In the UK, more than 12 000 pupils took the PISA tests in 2012. PISA tests have been used by governments to compare international standards.

	UK ranking		
Year	Mathematics	Science	Reading
2000	9th	5th	8th
2006	24th	14th	17th
2009	28th	16th	25th
2012	26th	21st	23rd



Section 1

10 From **Item D**, identify who funds academies. (**Tick the correct box.**)

[1 mark]

Central Government

Local Authority

Parents

11 From **Item E**, what position did the UK rank for mathematics in 2012?

[1 mark]

.....

12 Identify **two** reasons why some parents may wish to establish a free school in their local area.

[2 marks]

Reason 1

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Reason 2

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13 Explain what sociologists mean by the marketisation of education.

[4 marks]

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14 Describe **one** characteristic of an independent school **and** explain why some sociologists may criticise or support the existence of independent schools.

[5 marks]

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15 Describe **one** method used to educate pupils with special educational needs **and** explain the advantages of this method of education.

[5 marks]

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Topic 3 FamiliesStudy **Items F and G** (below).Answer **all** questions in **Section 3** and **one** question from **Section 4** in the spaces provided.**Item F****Number of household types in the UK in 2001 and 2010
(figures in millions)**

Household type	2001	2010
One person	7.0	7.5
Married or cohabiting couples	14.2	14.6
Lone-parent families	2.4	2.8
Two or more unrelated adults	0.7	0.8
Multi-families	0.2	0.2

Item G**Changing relationships between parents and children**

Some sociologists argue that modern-day relationships between parents and children are generally more child-centred, with the focus on the interests and needs of the child. They also believe that relationships between parents and children are becoming less authoritarian. Parent-child relationships are emotionally closer and warmer.

However, sociologists Pryor and Trinder note that there are class differences in the relationships between parents and children. Middle-class families are more likely than working-class families to consult their children and involve them in decision-making.



Section 3

18 From **Item F**, what is the trend in one-person households between 2001 and 2010?
(Tick the correct box.)

[1 mark]

The number of one-person households is decreasing

The number of one-person households is increasing

The number of one-person households has stayed the same

19 From **Item G**, parents of which social class have a more democratic relationship with their children?

[1 mark]

.....

20 Identify **two** reasons for the increase in cohabitation over the past 20 years.

[2 marks]

Reason 1

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Reason 2

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21 Explain what sociologists mean by a symmetrical family.

[4 marks]

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Item F: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcm%3A77-222652>.

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