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A-level SOCIOLOGY

Paper 1 Education with Theory and Methods

Wednesday 20 May 2020

Morning

Time allowed: 2 hours

Materials

You will need no other materials.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Fill in the boxes at the top of this page.
- Answer all questions.
- You must answer the questions in the spaces provided. Do not write outside the box around each page or on blank pages.
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Information

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 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

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Education

Answer all questions.

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Read Item A below and answer the question that follows.
Item A
Businesses compete with each other to attract customers. Another route to success for businesses is to provide unique products for their customers.
The introduction of marketisation policies into the state education system means that schools are run like businesses.
Applying material from Item A , analyse two ways in which marketisation policies have led to schools being run like businesses. [10 marks]



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

Item B

The patterns of educational achievement by gender have changed over time. Some sociologists explain these patterns through factors external to schools, such as socialisation and parental attitudes towards education. Changes in wider society, such as employment opportunities, may also contribute to these patterns.

However, the way schools are organised and the social interactions that take place within schools are also likely to affect gender differences in educational achievement.

applying material from Item B and your knowledge, evaluate sociological explained ender differences in educational achievement.			
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Methods in Context

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Read Item C below and answer the question that follows.

Item C

Pupils behave in many different ways in schools. Some pupils conform to school rules, for example by wearing the correct uniform and completing tasks set, whilst others break school rules. Interactions between teachers and pupils, and between peers, are likely to influence behaviour. Sociologists are interested in researching patterns of pupil behaviour, particularly disruptive behaviour.

One way of studying pupil behaviour in schools is to use non-participant observation. Pupils are often observed during the course of a school day. One advantage of non-participant observation is that the sociologist can observe behaviour both inside and outside classrooms. Non-participant observation allows behaviour categories to be decided before the observation begins. However, behaviour may not be classified in the same way by different researchers.

Applying material from Item C and your knowledge of research methods, evaluate the

strengths and limitations of using non-participant observation to investigate prin schools.	upil behaviour	
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Theory and Methods			
	Outline and explain two problems of using primary qualitative methods in sociological		
	research. [10 marks]		
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Education

Answer all questions.

0 1	Outline two ways in which globalisation may have had an influence on educational policies in the UK.
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0 2	Outline three reasons why some working-class boys join anti-school subcultures. [6 marks]	Do not write outside the box
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Read $\operatorname{Item} \mathbf{A}$ below and answer the question that follows.

Item A

Some sociologists claim that the curriculum taught in schools today prioritises some cultures over others. Research also suggests that teacher expectations can be based on stereotypes.

Teaching and learning in schools may affect the educational experiences of minority ethnic groups.

Applying material from Item A , analyse two ways in which teaching and learn schools may affect the educational experiences of minority ethnic groups.	ning in [10 marks]	
schools may affect the educational experiences of millionty ethnic groups.		



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

Item B

Some sociologists, such as functionalists, claim that the education system is based on meritocratic principles and provides all pupils with the opportunity to succeed. Pupils, whatever their background, are objectively assessed through the examination process.

Other sociologists claim that meritocracy is a myth. The education system ensures that existing social inequalities are reproduced in each generation.

Applying material from Item B and your knowledge, evaluate the view that the system is meritocratic.			
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Methods in Context

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

Item C

Investigating the academic progress of pupils in schools

There are differences in educational achievement between groups of pupils in schools. Sociologists seek to identify patterns of differential achievement and the reasons for these patterns. Academic progress is influenced by a range of factors, both external and internal to schools.

One way of studying the reasons for differences in academic progress between groups of pupils is to use secondary data. Schools collect and produce a range of quantitative secondary data, such as exam statistics, as well as qualitative secondary data, such as progress reports and pupils' work. One practical advantage of using secondary data is that it is often available in the public domain. However, access to some secondary data may be restricted. Data on pupil progress may also be presented in a selective way.

Applying material from Item C and your knowledge of research methods, evaluate the

oupils in schools.	[20 mark
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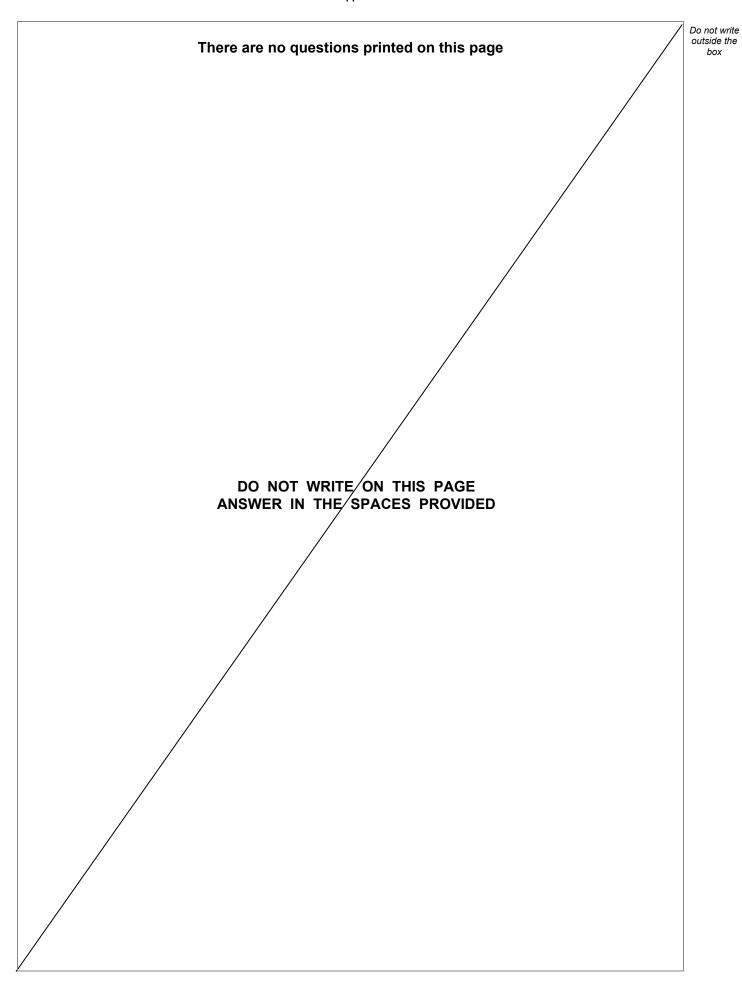
	Theory and Methods
	Outline and explain two arguments against the positivist view that sociology can be scientific. [10 marks]
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Education

Answer all questions.

1	Outline two ways in which schools may promote competition between pupils.	[4 marks]
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0 2	Outline three ways in which the education system may be seen as patriarchal.	[6 marks]	Do not write outside the box
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0 3	Read Item A below and answer the question that follows.
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Item A

Teachers may label and treat some groups of pupils differently from others. Schools and staff will have views about appropriate pupil behaviour and attitudes to school.

Relationships and processes within schools may lead to anti-school subcultures.

Applying material from Item A , analyse two ways in which relationships and p vithin schools may lead to anti-school subcultures.	hincesses		
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Read **Item B** below and answer the question that follows.

Item B

Since the introduction of marketisation policies to education, over 30 years ago, competition has grown between increasingly diverse types of schools. New Right theorists argue that every parent is free to choose the best school for their child. They also claim that this efficiently drives up standards and ensures that schools are responsive to the needs of parents and pupils.

However, some sociologists argue that there are limits to these choices. They also argue that marketisation policies may reinforce existing inequalities in educational achievement.

Applying material from Item B and your knowledge, evaluate the view that it policies have increased diversity and choice in the education system.	narketisation		
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Methods in Context

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

Item C

Investigating the reasons for subject choices made by pupils

As well as compulsory subjects at school, pupils can often choose optional ones. Pupils may choose different subjects for a variety of reasons. They may have a personal interest or talent in a subject or act on the basis of advice given by parents, professionals working within schools or others. However, there are patterns in subject choices linked to class, gender and ethnicity which could result from factors external to schools.

One way of studying differences in the subject choices made by pupils is to use group interviews. This type of interview can encourage deeper thought as participants can develop ideas put forward by other group members. However, participants may be influenced by peer pressure. Furthermore, some pupils, teachers and parents may find it difficult to find a time to meet as a group.

Applying material from Item C and your knowledge of research methods, evaluate the

strengths and limitations of using group interviews to investigate the reasons for subject choices made by pupils.		
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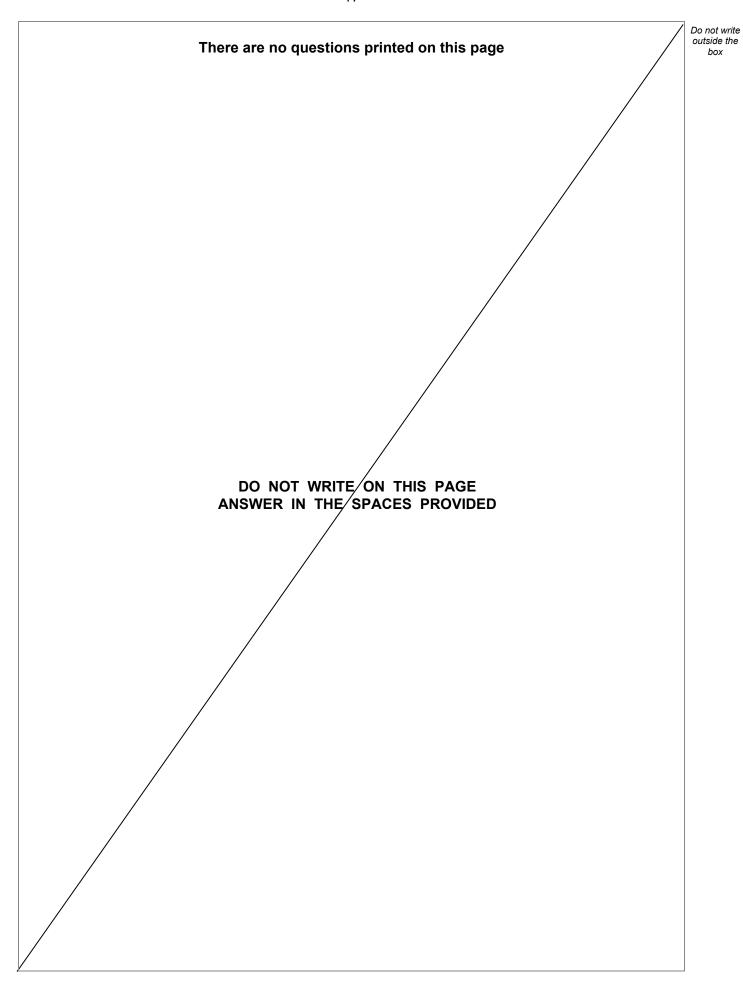
	Theory and Methods
(Outline and explain two reasons why official statistics should not be seen as social facts. [10 marks]
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A-level SOCIOLOGY

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Monday 22 May 2023

Morning

Time allowed: 2 hours

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Instructions

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Education

Answer all questions.

0 1	Outline two similarities between the functionalist and Marxist views of education. [4 marks]
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Read Item A below and answer the question that follows.

Item A

Throughout their schooling pupils are told that everyone has the same opportunity to succeed. Schools prepare pupils for the workplace.

Sociologists suggest that the hidden curriculum may help to reproduce the social class structure.

Applying material from Item A , analyse two ways that the hidden curriculum m reproduce the social class structure.			
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Read **Item B** below and answer the question that follows.

Item B

There are differences in patterns of educational achievement between groups of pupils. These differences can be based on class, gender or ethnicity, or a combination of these. Some sociologists argue that cultural factors are the main explanation for differences in educational achievement. Differences in primary socialisation may mean that some groups find it easier to engage with the culture of the school.

However, other sociologists argue that material factors, such as access to resources, are also important.

Applying material from Item B and your knowledge, evaluate the importance of actors in explaining patterns of educational achievement.			
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Read **Item C** below and answer the question that follows.

Item C

Investigating the pressure on pupils to achieve high grades

Pressure on pupils to achieve high grades can come from a range of sources. Schools and teachers are keen for their pupils to achieve high grades. Parents and peers can also be sources of pressure. High grades are often required by employers and universities.

One way of studying the pressure on pupils to achieve high grades is by using self-completion questionnaires. This type of questionnaire can be completed anonymously in private. However, operationalising concepts such as pressure can be difficult for the researcher. There is also no interviewer present to explain what the questions mean.

Applying material from Item C and your knowledge of research methods, evaluate the

strengths and limitations of using self-completion questionnaires to investigate pressure on pupils to achieve high grades.			
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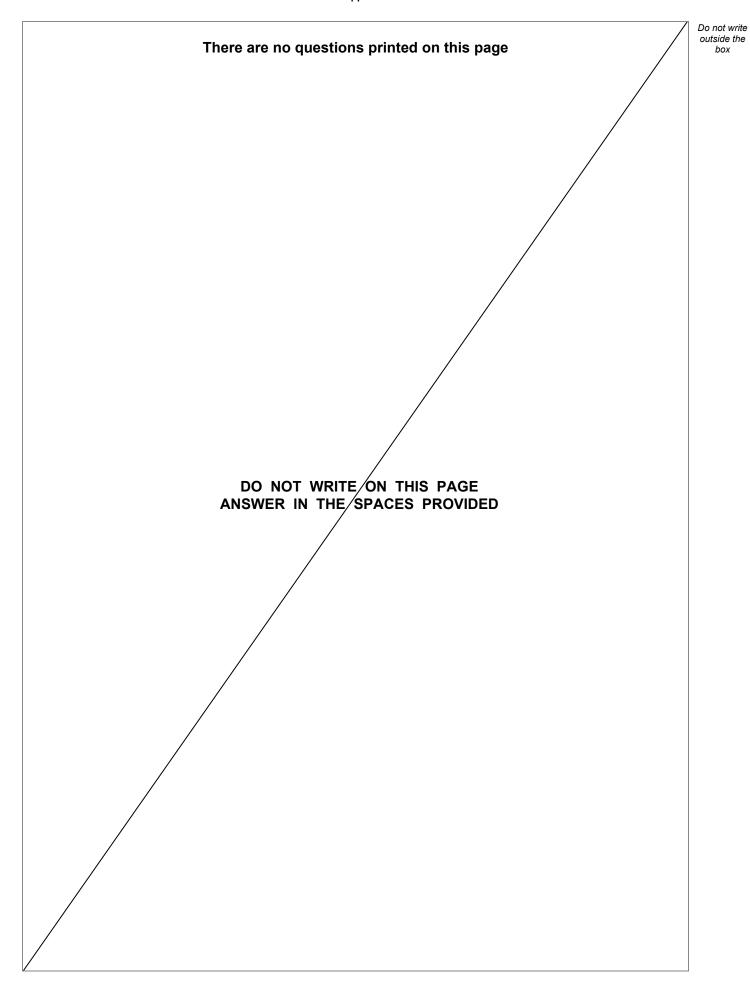


	Theory and Methods			
0 6	Outline and explain two reasons why sociologists may choose to use research that produce quantitative data.	methods [10 marks]		
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