



**GCE A LEVEL**

1200U40-1



**SOCIOLOGY – A2 unit 4**  
**Social Inequality and Applied Methods of**  
**Sociological Enquiry**

WEDNESDAY, 13 JUNE 2018 – MORNING

2 hours 15 minutes

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Answer **all** questions from Section A.  
Answer **one** question from Section B.  
Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided.  
Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

The total mark for this paper is 100 marks.  
The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.  
You are advised to divide your time accordingly.

**SECTION A: Applied methods of sociological enquiry**

*Read the following item and answer all the questions.*

**Compulsory question****Talking about poverty**

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation recently commissioned a study into the experiences of living in poverty. The study, which was one of five, was conducted in Middlesbrough between 2008 and 2010. It aimed to achieve a better understanding of the everyday lives of the poor and how and why people become trapped in the low pay, no-pay job cycle. The researchers conducted 60 in-depth interviews with both men and women who had first-hand experience of unemployment and low pay. The study generated rich information and the researchers concluded that those living in poverty often don't regard themselves as poor, resisting the label and the stigma attached to it.

*Adapted from "Talking about Poverty" Tracy Shildrick and Rob MacDonald in Sociology Review  
February 2015*

1. (a) Identify and explain **two** reasons why the researchers decided to use in-depth interviews in their research. [10]
  
- (b) As an A level Sociology student, you have been asked to design a research project to collect data on the role that social networking sites play in the lives of a representative sample of people in your area.
  - (i) Describe **each** stage of your research design, justifying the reasons for your choice at **each** stage.
  
  - (ii) Discuss problems that may occur and the impact of these problems on the quality of the data collected. [30]

**SECTION B: Social Inequality**

*Answer one of the following questions.*

**Either,**

2. (a) Identify **two** areas of life in contemporary society where there is evidence of gender inequality. Illustrate your answer with reference to supporting evidence for each area identified. [20]
- (b) Evaluate Marxist explanations of social inequality. [40]

**Or,**

3. (a) Identify **two** areas of life in contemporary society where there is evidence of ethnic inequality. Illustrate your answer with reference to supporting evidence for each area identified. [20]
- (b) Evaluate the usefulness of feminist explanations of social inequality. [40]

**END OF PAPER**