

A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY

PAPER 2 RESEARCHING SOCIAL INEQUALITIES

Time allowed: 120 minutes, 80 marks

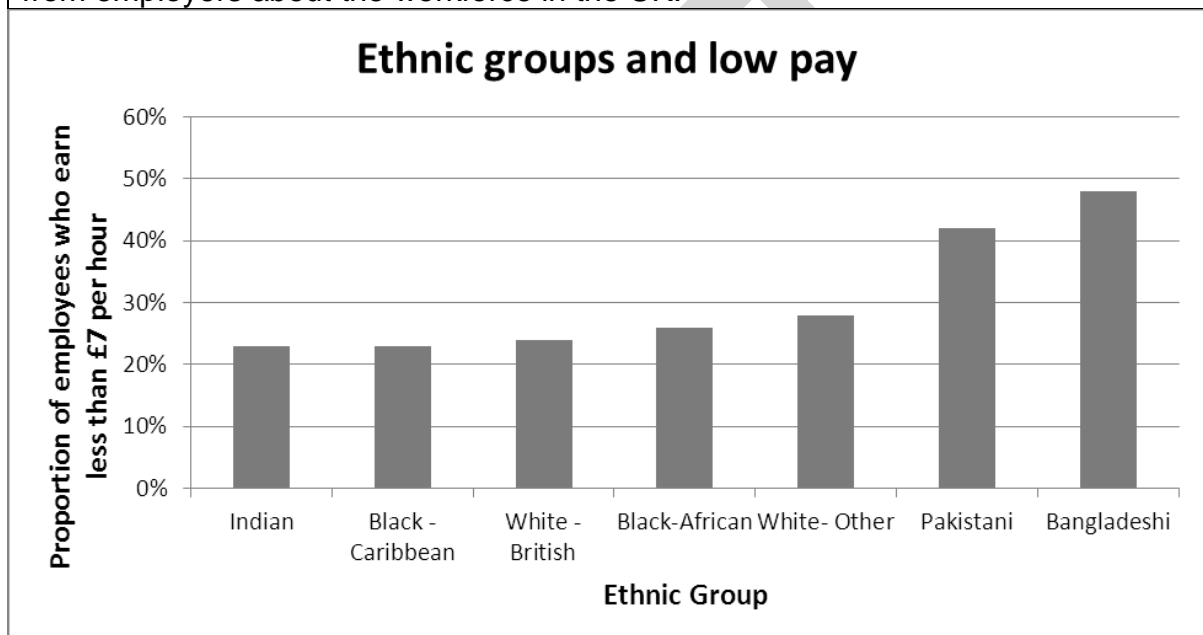
- Answer **all** the questions

Section A

Look at the source material and answer **all** the questions in this section.

Source A

The statistics below are taken from the *Labour Force Survey*, Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2011, a large-scale government funded survey which collects data from employers about the workforce in the UK.



Source B

Investigating attitudes of young people in poor neighbourhoods

A researcher wanted to investigate the attitudes and outlook of young people growing up in deprived communities. She was a female in her early twenties, who came from the area herself. She carried out an ethnographic study on young people in a town with high levels of unemployment, poverty and educational under-achievement. The researcher chose to collect qualitative data, because she wanted to understand the values of the young people from their own perspective.

The researcher conducted semi-structured interviews with more than 50 young people, aged between 14 and 21. Respondents were asked about their current situation and their hopes for the future, as well as their views on their local community. She also conducted participant observation by visiting local youth clubs, pubs and

clubs. Additionally, some of her interviewees invited her to join them and their friends when they were hanging out in local parks and other areas in the town.

- 1 Explain, using an example, the concept of reliability. **[4]**
- 2 Using Source A and your wider sociological knowledge, explain **one** strength and **one** weakness of using official statistics to study ethnic inequalities in pay. **[8]**
- 3 Using Source B and your wider sociological knowledge, explain and evaluate the usefulness of ethnographic research methods for investigating young people in poor neighbourhoods. **[16]**

Section A total: 28 marks

Section B

- 4 Explain, using an example, the concept of social stratification. **[4]**
- 5 Explain, using examples, **two** ways in which inequality significantly reduces the life chances of the working classes. **[8]**
- 6 Discuss the view that social class inequalities are functional for society. **[16]**
- 7 Discuss the view that women continue to be unequal to men because we still live in a patriarchal society. **[24]**

Section B total: 52 marks

Paper total: 80 marks