

AS LEVEL SOCIOLOGY

PAPER 2 RESEARCHING SOCIAL INEQUALITIES

Time allowed: 90 minutes, 56 marks

- Answer **all** the questions

Section A

Read the source material.

Source A

An ethnographic study of the lives of working-class young people

Two sociologists were interested in trying to understand the lives of young working-class people, especially some who follow a culture of drink and violence in cities at night. The researchers used an ethnographic approach involving a combination of unstructured and semi-structured interviews together with observation. Over a period of a year, they interviewed and observed about 40 young people (mostly aged between 18 and 25) in the north-east of England. Most of the young people worked in insecure casual jobs and spent much of their leisure time in pubs and clubs in the city centre.

Source B

The perceived effects of deprivation on education

A researcher carried out semi-structured interviews with 30 children aged between 8 and 11, and also interviewed their parents and teachers, gaining qualitative data. The children were selected from three primary schools in different boroughs in Greater London, which had a high proportion of children eligible for free school meals. This research aimed to explore whether children, their parents and teachers in schools serving disadvantaged communities were aware of educational inequalities and what the impact they thought these may have on children's experiences and outcomes. The semi-structured interviews contained some standard, open-ended questions, but also allowed the interviewer to ask follow-up questions where appropriate. In the interviews, the children were asked about how important education was to them, their experiences in school and whether they felt that children in their school had the same educational opportunities as other children. Parents and teachers were asked similar questions.

- 1 Explain, using an example, the concept of quota sampling. **[4]**
- 2 Using Source A and your wider sociological knowledge, explain **one** strength and **one** weakness of using ethnographic methods to study the lives of working-class young people. **[8]**
- 3 Using Source B and your wider sociological knowledge, explain and evaluate the use of semi-structured interviews for researching the perceived effects of deprivation on education. **[16]**

Section A total: 28 marks

Section B

- 4** Explain, using an example, the concept of vertical segregation. **[4]**
- 5** Explain, using examples, **two** ways in which working class people are disadvantaged in society. **[8]**
- 6** Explain and evaluate the functionalist view that the roles of men and women should be different. **[16]**

Section B total: 28 marks

Paper total: 56 marks

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