

General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



SOCIOLOGY
Unit 3

SC3W

Specimen Paper Showing Layout from 2005

<p>In addition to this paper you will require: an 8-page answer book.</p>
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Time allowed: 1 hour

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is SC3W.
- This paper consists of **one** question. Answer **all** parts of the question.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want marked.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- Mark allocations are shown in brackets.
- You will be assessed on your ability to use an appropriate form and style of writing, to organise relevant information clearly and coherently, and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.
- The degree of legibility of your handwriting and the level of accuracy of your spelling, punctuation and grammar will also be taken into account.

SOCIOLOGICAL METHODS

Answer **all** parts of the Question.

1

Total for this Question: 60 marks

Item A

In their research into violent behaviour, sociologists have used a wide range of research techniques. Although experiments in a laboratory setting are hardly ever used in sociological research, some sociologists have made use of some of the findings from experiments carried out by psychologists and others. For example, sociologists have used evidence such as that created by Albert Bandura who tested groups of young children to see if they would imitate adult violent behaviour they had witnessed.

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Other attempts to identify the causes and nature of violence have used questionnaires distributed through the post or over the internet. In other research situations, sociologists have conducted longitudinal research and case studies or created life histories of those involved in violent behaviour.

10

Item B

Clifford Stott and Steve Reicher investigated the way in which conflict is generated within crowds of football supporters, focusing on the 1990 World Cup. In this extract, they outline their choice of method.

The study is based mainly on participant observation. Stott lived with the England supporters for the duration of the tournament. This involved visiting campsites and bars and attending the games with other fans. He related to them as another football supporter without revealing his identity as a researcher. Occasionally however, Stott was more open about his research role when questioning people about their perception of events.

5

Field notes were recorded directly on to audiotape and then written up. These notes were, in part, recorded while Stott was participating as an observer. These notes were used to detail the chronology of events as they happened; to describe the behaviour of those involved; and to record conversations, chants and shouts.

10

Stott and Reicher also carried out content analysis of secondary sources.

Source: reprinted by permission of Sage Publications Ltd, adapted from C. STOTT & S. REICHER, "How Conflict Escalates: The Inter-Group Dynamics of Collective Football Crowd 'Violence' " in *Sociology: The Journal of the British Sociological Association*, Vol. 32 No. 2, May 1998

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- (a) Explain what is meant by “secondary sources” (**Item B**, line 13). *(2 marks)*
- (b) Suggest **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of carrying out “longitudinal research” (**Item A**, line 9). *(4 marks)*
- (c) Suggest **three** problems associated with using questionnaires “distributed through the post or over the internet” (**Item A**, line 8). *(6 marks)*
- (d) Identify and briefly explain **two** reasons why “experiments in a laboratory setting are rarely used in sociological research” (**Item A**, lines 2 – 3). *(8 marks)*
- (e) Examine the reasons why some sociologists prefer to collect and use quantitative data in their research. *(20 marks)*
- (f) Using material from **Item B** and elsewhere, assess the usefulness of participant observation in sociological research. *(20 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

THERE ARE NO QUESTIONS PRINTED ON THIS PAGE

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