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WJEC/CBAC

GCE A LEVEL

1200U40-1

FRIDAY, 13 JUNE 2025 – AFTERNOON

SOCIOLOGY – A2 UNIT 4

SOCIAL INEQUALITY AND APPLIED METHODS OF SOCIOLOGICAL ENQUIRY

2 hours 15 minutes plus your additional time allowance

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer ALL questions from Section A.

Answer ONE question from Section B.

Write your answers using your usual method.

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.

[Braille Page 2]SECTION A: APPLIED METHODS OF
SOCIOLOGICAL ENQUIRY

Read the following item and answer ALL the questions.

COMPULSORY QUESTION

Read the item below and answer the following questions.

SCHOOL EXCLUSIONS

Government statistics reveal that between 2007 and 2018 a disproportionately high number of Black Caribbean pupils were excluded from school.

Demie was interested to investigate why this was the case. He and his team of researchers used semi structured interviews and focus groups to collect evidence on the reasons behind the over representation of Black Caribbean pupils in school exclusions.

Schools with an above national average number of Black Caribbean students and evidence of exclusion in the schools were used. Each school selected focus groups made up of 15 teaching staff, 17 school governors, 14 Black Caribbean parents

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and 8 SENCOs [special educational needs co-ordinators].

The researchers concluded that a range of factors had resulted in the school exclusions.

Demie, F. (2022) *Understanding the causes and consequences of school exclusions: Teachers, parents and schools' perspectives*. Routledge.

1. (a) Identify and explain TWO reasons why the researchers decided to use semi structured interviews in their research. [10 marks]

(b) As an A level student, you have been asked to design a research project using one research method, to collect data on the career aspirations of a sample of young people in your area.

(i) Describe each stage of your research design, justifying the reasons for your choice at each stage.

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(ii) Discuss problems that may occur and the impact of these problems on the quality of the data collected. [30 marks]

SECTION B begins on the next page

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SECTION B: SOCIAL INEQUALITY

Answer ONE of the following questions.

EITHER,

2. (a) There is evidence of social inequality in contemporary UK society. With reference to TWO areas of life use sociological evidence to support this. [20 marks]

(b) Evaluate the view that social class is the most important source of social inequality in contemporary society. [40 marks]

OR,

3. (a) There is evidence of gender inequality in contemporary UK society. With reference to TWO areas of life use sociological evidence to support this. [20 marks]

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(b) "Social inequalities are functional and inevitable." Evaluate this view. [40 marks]

END OF PAPER
