



# A-level Sociology

Practice paper for AQA

## Paper 1

Education with Theory and Methods

Time allowed: 2 hours

### Materials

For this paper you will need:  
Some paper or a notepad for your answers.

### Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Answer **all** questions.
- Do all rough work on the paper or notepad. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- Questions carrying 10 marks or more should be answered in continuous prose. In these questions you will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Name: .....

**0 1** Outline **two** ways in which cultural capital may benefit a student in their educational achievement.

[4 marks]

**0 2** Outline **three** examples of patriarchy that may exist within schools.

[6 marks]

**0 3** Read **Item A** below and answer the question that follows.

**Item A**

There is much debate in education as to whether mixed ability groups or streamed sets are the most beneficial to the pupil. For example, some subjects, such as maths, have tiered exams, so many would argue that classes based on varying degrees of ability are the most logical way to teach students in a comfortable environment.

Applying material from **Item A**, analyse **two** ways in which setting and streaming could impact educational performance.

[10 marks]

**0 4** Read **Item B** below and answer the question that follows.

**Item B**

Statistics show that some ethnic minority students continue to underperform in education. Many sociologists believe that this is a result of factors outside of day-to-day school life. For example, in many households young children have a large amount of responsibility around the home in the form of domestic labour and looking after siblings. This can have a serious impact on the amount of time that can be dedicated to school work and completing homework tasks.

Applying material from **Item B** and your knowledge, evaluate the view that some ethnic minority underperformance is a result of factors outside of the school environment.

[30 marks]

**0 5** Read **Item C** below and answer the question that follows.

**Item C**

**Investigating parents' attitudes towards homework**

There are very contrasting views towards homework from parents of schoolchildren. Many parents feel that there is already enough stress and pressure on young children in education without the added weight of homework. Others, however, believe that homework is an essential part of education.

In order to understand the diversity of these views, sociologists may send out large numbers of postal questionnaires to parents, which allows for the collection of a range of views and opinions. This does, however, depend upon parents actually completing the questionnaire.

Applying material from **Item C** and your knowledge of research methods, evaluate the strengths and limitations of using postal questionnaires to investigate parents' attitudes towards homework.

**[20 marks]**

**0 6** Outline and explain two arguments as to why interpretivist sociologists prefer the use of micro methods of research.

**[10 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**