



**GCE A LEVEL**

**1200U40-1**

**TUESDAY, 11 JUNE 2024 – AFTERNOON**

**SOCIOLOGY – A2 unit 4**

**Social Inequality and Applied Methods of  
Sociological Enquiry**

**2 hours 15 minutes plus your additional time allowance**

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

**A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.**

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

**Use black ink, black ball-point pen or your usual method.**

**Answer ALL questions from Section A.**

**Answer ONE question from Section B.**

**Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided.**

**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.**

**(Turn over)**

## **SECTION A: APPLIED METHODS OF SOCIOLOGICAL ENQUIRY**

Read the following item and answer ALL the questions.

### **COMPULSORY QUESTION**

#### **Educating the Ritas – the experiences of working class women on higher education courses**

Sarah McLaughlin is a tutor and lecturer. Her research aims to find out more about the experiences of mature working class women entering higher education. Just like Rita in *Educating Rita*, the character in Willy Russell's play, McLaughlin observed that many older women from working class backgrounds find that their identity is challenged once they embark on a higher education course. McLaughlin claims that many of the women she has taught have felt guilty about wanting to spend more time with their new college friends. These women are often mothers and carers and feel torn between these roles and their new identity as students. McLaughlin decided to use focus groups and semi-structured interviews in her research to collect her data on the experiences of these women.

Adapted from 'Educating the Ritas', *The Sociological Review*, April 2021. <https://thesociologicalreview.org/magazine/april-2021/social-class/educating-the-ritas/>

(Turn over)

- 1 (a) Identify and explain TWO reasons why the researcher decided to use focus groups in her research. [10 marks]**
- (b) As an A level student, you have been asked to design a research project to collect data on attitudes to national vaccination programmes in society. Your sample should be representative of people living in your area.**
- (i) Describe each stage of your research design, justifying the reasons for your choice at each stage.**
- (ii) Discuss problems that may occur and the impact of these problems on the quality of the data collected. [30 marks]**

**SECTION B: SOCIAL INEQUALITY**

**Answer ONE of the following questions.**

**EITHER,**

- 2 (a) There is evidence of ethnic inequality in contemporary UK society. With reference to TWO areas of life, use sociological evidence to support this. [20 marks]**
- (b) Evaluate sociological explanations for patterns of social inequality that exist in UK society. [40 marks]**

**OR,**

- 3 (a) There is evidence of social class inequality in contemporary UK society. With reference to TWO areas of life, use sociological evidence to support this. [20 marks]**
- (b) Ethnic inequalities exist in the UK. Evaluate sociological explanations for this. [40 marks]**

**END OF PAPER**