



# Sociology

**GCSE**

**Sociology**

Unit B673

Exemplar Responses and  
Commentaries 2014

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The sample answers in this resource have been extracted from original candidate scripts to maintain their authenticity.

## QUESTION 6: EXEMPLAR 1

3 MARKS

Evaluate how useful the secondary sources are for proving the hypothesis (page 2–3, lines 20–52) in Investigation 1.

[6]

Source 1 is very useful for proving the hypothesis because the historical data means that she can see from the time what people's attitudes were towards women doing men's jobs, she will be able to compare ~~to~~ to her other research. Source 2 isn't very useful because it doesn't show how men and women's jobs have changed it only shows what men and women work as, also it doesn't show anything about people's attitudes towards men and women's jobs changing.

## COMMENTARY

### MARKS AWARDED

**3 marks**

### WHY DID IT ACHIEVE THE MARKS?

The candidate has referred to both sources but it is basic as there is little focus on the actual content of the sources, no specific reference to the hypothesis and therefore no clear explanation of exactly how the data is useful or not in supporting the hypothesis.

Whilst there is a brief attempt to evaluate, the lack of detail means this cannot be credited. Credit has been given for two partial links.

### HOW THE ANSWER COULD BE IMPROVED

Response needs to identify (either specifically or implicitly) the hypothesis as this is not stated in the question. There needs to be identification of accurate and specific evidence. It should make clear links between the hypothesis and the data in the sources with explanation of how the data is/is not useful for proving parts of the hypothesis. Reference to more than one part of the hypothesis or more than one source is required for top level

To demonstrate evaluation skills, the answer needs consideration of both ways the hypothesis is supported by the evidence and ways it is refuted. This is required for the top mark.



## QUESTION 6: EXEMPLAR 2

6 MARKS

Evaluate how useful the secondary sources are for proving the hypothesis (page 2–3, lines 20–52) in Investigation 1.

[6]

The first secondary source used is a <sup>survey in a</sup> ~~best~~ book. This source was quite useful because the <sup>first</sup> survey was conducted ☒ "1943" based on the "what women thought of working" this is quite useful because ☒ the hypothesis is focussing on the attitudes in the "1940s". It's ~~also~~ useful because it looks at women's attitude to work. However it's not useful because ~~it doesn't compare~~ <sup>the hypothesis is</sup> comparing the attitudes ~~"nowadays"~~ ☒ but the survey focuses on the past "1943" and "1965".

Source 2 is quite useful because firstly it's from the "Official statistics" so this makes it reliable. It's also useful because it ☒ compares the ~~amount~~ of certain genders who work in a specific occupation. However it only focuses on "2011" and doesn't look ~~into the "1940s"~~ ☒

## COMMENTARY

### MARKS AWARDED

**6 marks**

### WHY DID IT ACHIEVE THE MARKS?

This is a sound level three answer which meets the criteria for six marks.

The candidate has demonstrated a good understanding of Source 1 and explains the content in some detail. There is reference to different parts of the hypothesis through using inverted commas and there is focus on different parts ie the date and attitudes. Clear links are made to show how the source supports the hypothesis. The response then gains credit for evaluation through reference to the failure of the source to consider 'nowadays'.

For Source 2, there is a partial link made between the hypothesis and the source through reference to dates.

### HOW THE ANSWER COULD BE IMPROVED

It is not the best example of a full mark answer as there is a heavy focus on time. The response could be improved through consideration of two distinct issues but as the evidence used is different, the criteria for level 3 are met.

For Source 2, the first part which relates to official statistics is generic and not creditable. It needs to be made specific to the source. The partial link made here could be made clearer by more specific reference to the hypothesis and source.

## QUESTION 12: EXEMPLAR 3

6 MARKS

Identify and explain **three** ways participant observation could be useful for studying job satisfaction in Investigation 2.

[6]

1. If the researcher had been working alongside the workers, he could have befriended them and they may have told him truthful opinions about what they think about work.
2. He could have seen how happy/unhappy the workers are throughout the day and how much they communicate and how close their relationships seem to be to decide if he thinks they feel as though they 'belong'.
3. He would have experienced the job for himself, giving him an idea about whether he thinks it's enjoyable/satisfactory or not.

## COMMENTARY

### MARKS AWARDED

**6 marks**

### WHY DID IT ACHIEVE THE MARKS?

In this response there are three advantages of participant observation identified. It is clear the candidate has a good understanding of the method.

Each advantage is then explained ie. related to job satisfaction through gathering opinions about work or measuring in some way how happy people are at work. The reference (in point 2) back to the source on Blauner's alienation is particularly commendable and high level response which demonstrates a good understanding of sociology.

### HOW THE ANSWER COULD BE IMPROVED

Identifying more explicitly in the first point that it would mean the researcher is part of the group rather than just working alongside. However, given the time constraints, this candidate has done well and achieved full marks.

## QUESTION 12: EXEMPLAR 4

4 MARKS

Identify and explain **three** ways participant observation could be useful for studying job satisfaction in Investigation 2.

[6]

1 By participating you experience the job yourself, so you know how satisfying the job actually is.

2 You can get more valid results, as the peers around you are more likely to tell a 'friend' the truth than a researcher.

3 The observation will have high ecological validity as the set up won't be changed from real life, because you would be just another employee.

# COMMENTARY

## MARKS AWARDED

4 marks

## WHY DID IT ACHIEVE THE MARKS?

There are three advantages of participant observation identified.

The first point has an advantage and then some explanation which relates to job satisfaction. The application in this first point is not strong but it is more than just referring to the term 'job satisfaction' so credit has been given.

The last point does not have an explanation relating directly to job satisfaction but ecological validity is explained and there is a hint of relating to work. Therefore the candidate is awarded four marks rather than three.

## HOW THE ANSWER COULD BE IMPROVED

It is a question which carries AO2 marks so unless there is reference in the response, for each advantage given, to the issue of studying job satisfaction, full marks is not possible.

There is a hint of an explanation in the second point ie 'Tell a friend the truth' and if the response had added about how they feel about the job, credit could have been given.



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