

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS**  
**ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY GCE**  
**2534**  
**SOCIOLOGY**  
**Sociological Research Skills**

**TUESDAY 12 MAY 2009: Morning**  
**DURATION: 1 hour**

**SUITABLE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CANDIDATES**

**Candidates answer on the Answer Booklet.**

**OCR SUPPLIED MATERIALS:**

**8 page Answer Booklet**

**OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED:**

**None**

**READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF**

## **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- **Write your name clearly in capital letters, your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided on the Answer Booklet.**
- **Use black ink. Pencil may be used for graphs and diagrams only.**
- **Read each question carefully and make sure that you know what you have to do before starting your answer.**
- **Answer ALL parts of the question.**

## **INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

- **The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.**
- **The total number of marks for this paper is 60.**
- **You will be awarded marks for the quality of written communication where an answer requires a piece of extended writing.**

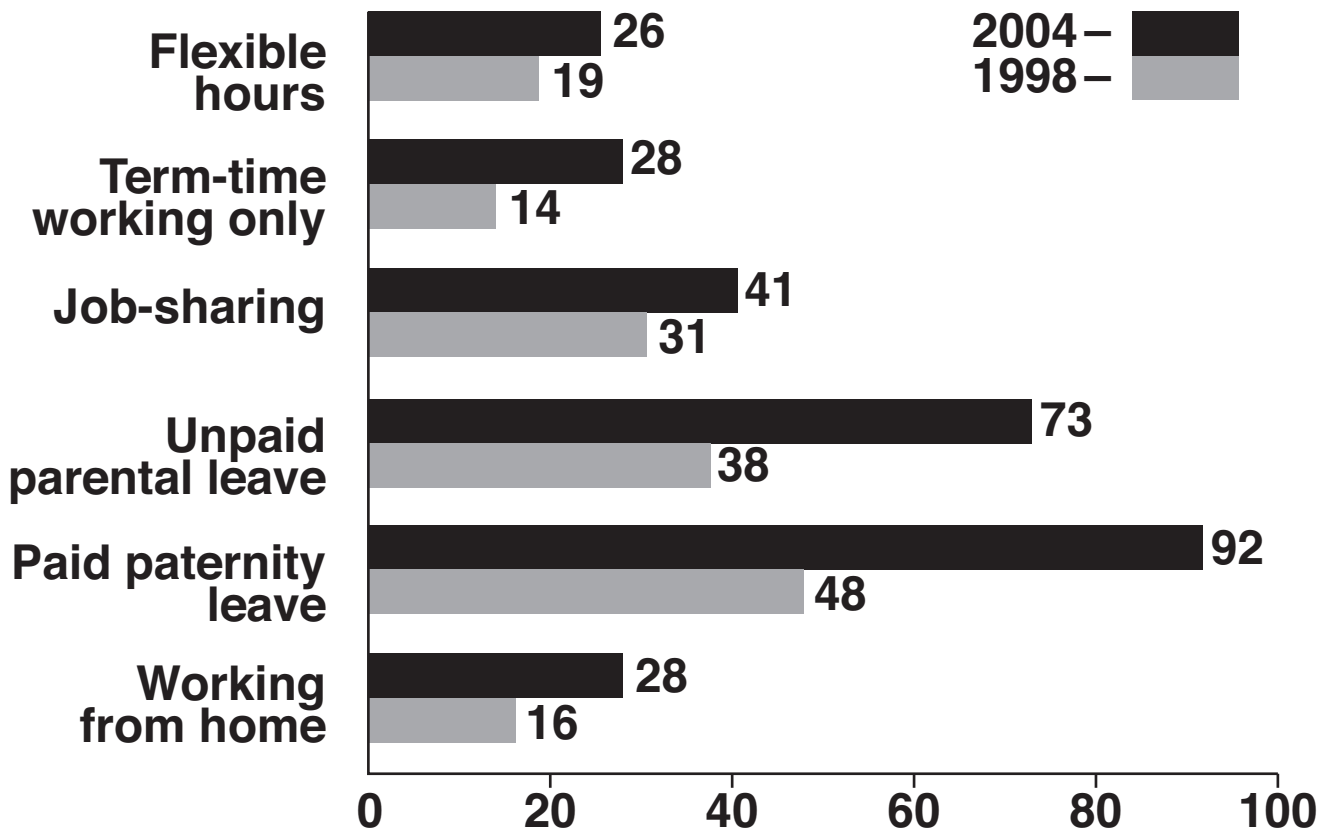
***Study Item A and Item B carefully, then answer all parts of the question (a) to (d).***

***You should spend approximately 30 minutes answering parts (a) to (c) and approximately 30 minutes answering part (d)***

## **ITEM A**

### **FLEXIBLE WORKING IN THE UK**

**percentage of workplaces adopting flexible working arrangements**



***N.B. Flexible working refers to arrangements that allow employees to have variable working times, often to fit in with family commitments.***

## **ITEM B**

**You have been asked to consider a research design in terms of its reliability, validity and representativeness. The research is about parents who have non-typical working patterns (e.g. they work weekends, evenings, early mornings). The research aims to gather evidence about the relationships between these working patterns and the amount of time that parents spend with their children, and how they spend that time. The research design consists of:**

- Accessing a sample of companies who employ adults to work non-typical working hours;**
- Using a volunteer sampling technique, requesting these workers (and their families) to complete two one-week diaries, detailing how they spend their time;**
- Carrying out a survey using questionnaires with closed-ended questions, administered to both the children and parents. The survey is aimed at discovering how working non-typical hours affects family life.**

## **QUESTIONS**

- (a) Briefly explain the meaning of the term ‘pilot study’. [6]**
- (b) Using ITEM A, identify TWO main changes in the percentage of workplaces adopting flexible working arrangements between 1998 and 2004. [8]**
- (c) Using ITEM B, identify and explain ONE strength and ONE weakness of the research design. [16]**
- (d) Outline and assess ONE method of collecting information about factors which cause employees to suffer from stress at work. [30]**

**[Total: 60 marks]**

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