



**ADVANCED GCE**  
**SOCIOLOGY**

Applied Sociological Research Skills

**2537**

Candidates answer on the Answer Booklet

**OCR Supplied Materials:**

- 16 page Answer Booklet

**Other Materials Required:**

None

**Tuesday 29 June 2010**  
**Afternoon**

**Duration:** 1 hour 30 minutes



**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.
- Do **not** write in the bar codes.

**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.
- This document consists of **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Answer **all** parts (a) to (e). You are advised to spend **approximately 30 minutes** on parts (a)–(c), and **one hour** on parts (d) and (e).

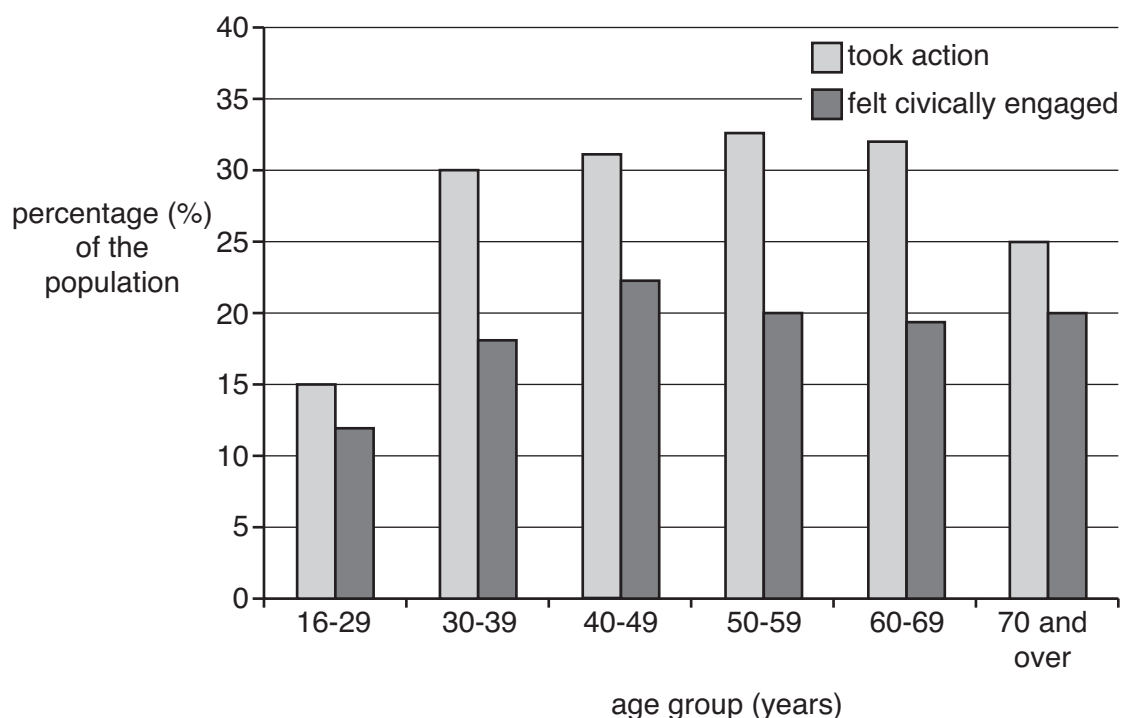
Study **ITEM A** carefully, then answer parts (a), (b) and (c).

## ITEM A

The General Household Survey (GHS) has tried to measure the concept 'social capital'. Social capital is an unclear concept that required definition and operationalising for its use in the survey. Social capital could mean different things to different people, both individually and amongst different cultural groups; social class, ethnicity, geographical region. Operationalising such a concept allows precise measures to be made and all respondents to gain a consistent understanding. The GHS operationalises 'social capital' using 5 indicators.

One of the key indicators was 'civic engagement'. Eighteen per cent 'felt civically engaged'. That is, they felt well informed, believed they could influence decisions and agreed that local people could affect decisions relating to their neighbourhood. More than half of people felt well informed about local affairs (59 per cent) and felt that communities could influence decisions (56 per cent), but only a minority felt that they personally could influence decisions in the area (26 per cent).

**Whether people took action to solve a local problem and whether they felt civically engaged by age: Great Britain, 2000**



Adapted from National Statistics Online; General Household Survey

- (a) Using only **ITEM A**, identify **two** strengths of operationalising the concept, 'social capital'. [6]
- (b) Identify and explain **one** strength and **one** weakness of using self completion, structured questionnaires to research the views of local residents about the services provided by their local council. [8]
- (c) Summarise the findings of the research in **ITEM A**. [10]

Study **ITEM B** carefully and then answer parts (d) and (e).

#### ITEM B

Your local council is concerned that the services it provides for children with behavioural and learning difficulties – both inside and outside school – are not as effective as they might be.

The local council has asked you, as a sociological researcher, to design a research proposal that will target an appropriate sample of parents of children with behavioural and learning difficulties to discover how effective they think the services really are. You are required to collect **qualitative** data.

- (d) With reference to **ITEM B**, outline and explain the research process that you would adopt in collecting **qualitative** data from parents to discover parents' views on the effectiveness of the services the local council provides for children with behavioural and learning difficulties. [14]
- (e) Assess the potential weaknesses of your research proposal, briefly explaining how you intend to overcome them. [22]

[Total: 60 marks]

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