



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

AS Level Sociology

H180/02 Researching and understanding social inequalities

Tuesday 23 May 2017 – Morning

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes



You must have:

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet
(OCR12 sent with general stationery)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Answer **all** the questions.
- Write your answers in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Do **not** write in the barcodes.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **75**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].
- Quality of extended responses will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).
- This document consists of **4** pages.

SECTION A

Read the source material and answer **all** the questions in Section A.

Source A

Findings from the British Social Attitudes Survey

The British Social Attitudes Survey is a large-scale social survey of social attitudes in Britain carried out each year. In 2012 the survey was based on a representative national sample of 3248 adults. The same question was asked in three surveys, in 1989, 2002 and 2012. Respondents were asked which type of work (if any) they thought mothers with children at different ages should perform. The results are shown below.

Attitudes to mothers' employment, in different circumstances, 1989, 2002 and 2012

% agree that a woman should	When there is a child under school age			When the youngest child has started school		
	1989	2002	2012	1989	2002	2012
Work full-time	2	3	5	13	15	28
Work part-time	26	34	43	68	66	52
Stay at home	64	48	33	11	5	2
Can't choose	6	12	17	7	12	16

Source: Scott. J, and Clery. E, (2012), Attitudes to gender roles: change over time, *British Social Attitudes 30*

Source B

A small-scale study of men's experiences of upward social mobility

Andreas Giazitzoglu carried out a small-scale qualitative study examining the experiences of men from working-class backgrounds who had experienced upward social mobility into the middle-class. He started by putting an advertisement for men willing to be 'questioned on life' in a gym in a northern town he calls 'Dramen'. 42 men volunteered and Giazitzoglu conducted individual, semi-structured qualitative interviews lasting about an hour with each of them. The interviews were based around 30 open-ended questions, however, Giazitzoglu also took along some magazines on body building and men's fashion and referred to the images of masculinity in them when asking some of his questions. This enabled him to explore issues such as the male body types the men aspired to and their fashion preferences.

As the research progressed Giazitzoglu began to focus on seven of the 42 men who he describes as 'The Changers', a group of friends from working-class backgrounds who had all achieved upward social mobility into middle-class jobs. While other men in the original sample who had remained in the working-class merely aimed to 'get by in life by just keeping their heads down and not expecting overmuch', the Changers described their ambitions with statements such as these:

Phil: 'A proper posh lad in (northern city) ... always drinking in a top bar at the weekend with loads of money in my pocket and women with nice accents all around me while wearing my Armani suit ... like the guys in the TV show *Entourage*'.

Adam: 'Having a good office job, a degree and a BMW and an eye for the good life ... leaving the past and the riff-raff I knew behind me ... living in a nice area with a garden and talking about politics rather than football'.

About five years after the original interviews the researcher carried out a second phase of interviews with the seven Changers to allow him to explore further how the Changers saw their social mobility. Data collected in these interviews was complemented by participant observations of the Changers in public spaces that they frequented (e.g. bars, restaurants and shopping centres). Giazitzoglu found that it was fairly easy to establish a rapport with the Changers as he had been born in Dramen, was a similar age to them, and came from a similar background. He suggested that if it had not been for this it is 'unlikely that as much natural data would have emerged in the research process'.

The author's findings focus on the way in which the Changers tried to adopt what they saw as a middle-class identity based on images they had acquired from the media. For example, they would buy one another champagne on nights out in bars as they saw this as a sign of a glamorous lifestyle. They also attempted to develop what they saw as a middle-class masculine body, developing toned athletic physiques in the gym rather than the bulging muscles and tattoos which they saw as signs of working-class masculinity. At the same time the Changers still found it difficult to fit into the middle-class lifestyle to which they aspired because of their working-class backgrounds. Despite their designer clothes and sharp haircuts the author observed how one night they were mistaken for football hooligans on a night out in a trendy bar.

Andreas Giazitzoglu (2014) 'Qualitative Upward Mobility, the Mass-Media and "Posh" Masculinity in Contemporary North-East Britain: A Micro Sociological Case-Study' *Sociological Research Online*, 19 (2) 12

Answer **all** the questions in Section A.

- 1 Summarise **two** changes in attitudes to mothers' employment shown in **Source A**. [4]
- 2* With reference to **Source B**, explain why sociologists may include direct quotations from the people they have studied when presenting the results of qualitative research. [9]
- 3* With reference to **Source A** and any other evidence, explain how sociologists might try to select a representative sample in order to carry out a survey of social attitudes. [12]
- 4* Using **Source B** and your wider sociological knowledge, explain and evaluate the use of a combination of interviews and participant observation for researching the experience of men who have undergone upward social mobility. [20]

SECTION B

Answer **all** the questions in Section B.

- 5* Describe **two** ways in which social class inequalities can be seen in patterns or trends in relation to work and employment. [10]
- 6* Evaluate the view that women have now achieved equality with men in UK society. [20]

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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