Studying Society: Past Paper Questions

2 mark questions	4 mark questions		
This question always asks you about a pro and con of a method	*'Describe' questions:*	*'Explain' questions*	*Scenario related 'identify' and 'explain' questions*
Outline **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of using the research method that you have identified in **0 2** above. *This question is always the same – but remember that you need to be able to answer it for any research methods*	• Study **Item C**. Describe how the sociological idea of gender differs from the biological idea of sex. • Study **Item C**. Describe how sociologists investigate families and their lives compared with how journalists might investigate families and their lives • Study **Item C**. Describe how sociologists may approach a study of truancy and explain how this might differ from the approach of psychologists. • Study **Item C**. Describe how journalists may approach the issue of racism in British schools differently from sociologists. • Study **Item C**. Describe how a longitudinal study might be useful for research into the influence of parents on a child's development. • Describe how psychologists may approach a study of childhood happiness and well-being differently from sociologists • Describe how a sociological approach to families may differ from a biological approach to families. • Describe how journalists may approach the issue of pupil behaviour in British schools differently from sociologists • Describe how biologists may approach the study of gender identity of humans differently from sociologists	• Explain what sociologists mean by gender socialisation. • Explain **one** way in which a longitudinal study would be useful for research into the socialisation of boys and girls in modern British society. • Explain what sociologists mean by joint domestic roles • Explain how the use of primary research might be useful for research into role conflict experienced by working women • Explain what sociologists mean by social deprivation • Explain the importance of clear research aims when carrying out a sociological investigation. • Explain what sociologists mean by socialisation • Explain what sociologists mean by gender role models • Explain what sociologists mean by gender stereotypes • Explain what sociologists mean by sanctions • Explain what sociologists mean by ethnicity • Explain **one** way in which sociological research might help educational authorities to design policies to reduce truancy in Britain. • Explain **one** way in which sociological research might help schools and educational authorities design policies to reduce racist bullying in schools • Explain **one** way in which sociological research might help governments to design policies to support parents in Britain • Explain **one** way in which sociological research might help schools **and/or** the Government design policies that encourage more girls to study Physics • Explain **one** way in which sociological research might help the Government **and/or** schools design policies to reduce the number of children being bullied. • Study **Item C**. Explain why sociologists may use qualitative data as opposed to quantitative data when researching standards in schools • Study **Item C** above. Explain what sociologists mean by family diversity	• Identify **one** way in which you could select your sample **and** explain why this would be appropriate • Identify **one** ethical issue which may arise in the course of doing your research **and** explain why this might be an issue for this particular research. • Identify what sociologists mean by a pilot study **and** explain why you might undertake a pilot study in your investigation • Identify **one** ethical issue you may need to consider **and** explain how you could deal with this ethical issue in your investigation • Identify what sociologists mean by official statistics **and** explain why these may or may not be useful for your investigation • Identify **one** ethical issue that you may need to consider **and** explain how you could deal with this issue in your investigation • Identify what sociologists mean by official statistics **and** explain how useful these might be for your investigation • Identify **one** ethical issue that you may need to consider **and** explain why you need to consider this ethical issue for this investigation • Identify what sociologists mean by secondary data **and** explain how useful school racist incident figures would be for your investigation • Identify **one** ethical issue that you may need to consider **and** explain why you need to consider this ethical issue for your investigation • Identify **one** secondary source of information that you would use in your study **and** explain why this source might be useful • Identify **one** ethical issue which may arise when asking people about marriage **and** explain how you might deal with this in your research • Identify what sociologists mean by opinion polls **and** explain how useful these might be for your investigation • Identify **one** ethical issue that you may need to consider **and** explain how you could deal with this issue in your investigation • Identify a primary research method that you could use **and** explain why it would be a good method for your investigation • Identify **one** ethical issue that you may need to consider **and** explain how you could deal with this issue in your investigation • Identify what sociologists mean by a pilot study **and** explain why you might undertake a pilot study for this investigation • Identify **one** secondary source of information that you would use **and** explain why this source might be useful for your investigation

6 mark questions: These questions are often repeated – and they always have the same structure

- Identify **one** primary research method that you would use **and** explain why it is better than another possible primary method for obtaining the information that you need.
- Identify **one** secondary source of data that you could use **and** explain why it is better than another possible secondary source for obtaining the information you need.
- Identify **one** sampling method that you would use **and** explain why it is better than another possible sampling technique for obtaining a representative sample
- Identify **one** method of interviewing that you might use **and** explain whether this method is better than using postal questionnaires for your research into attitudes towards marriage.
- Identify **one** observational method that you would use **and** explain why it is better than another possible observational method for obtaining information for your investigation
- Identify **one** primary research method that you would use **and** explain why it is better than another possible primary method for your investigation
- Identify **one** sampling method that you could use **and** explain why it is better than another possible sampling method for your investigation
- Identify **one** method of interviewing that you might use **and** explain why this method is better than using postal questionnaires for your investigation
- Identify **one** primary research method that you might use **and** explain why it is better than another possible primary research method for your investigation

Education: Past Paper Questions

2 mark questions	4 mark questions	5 mark questions
• Identify **two** reasons why parents may or may not wish to send their children to a particular school • Identify **two** ways in which peer group pressure may affect a pupil's performance • Identify **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of the publication of school league tables. • Identify **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of children with special needs being educated in mainstream schools. • Identify **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage for pupils of setting • Identify **two** reasons why parents send their children to independent schools • Identify **two** reasons why parents may choose to educate their children at home • Identify **one** advantage **and one** disadvantage of streaming pupils • Identify **two** reasons why some parents may wish to establish a free school in their local area.	• Explain what sociologists mean by the hidden curriculum. • Explain what sociologists mean by labelling in schools • Explain what sociologists mean by vocationalism in education • Explain what sociologists mean by pupil subcultures • Explain what sociologists mean by the self-fulfilling prophecy • Explain what sociologists mean by a faith school • Explain what sociologists studying education mean by material deprivation • Explain what sociologists studying education mean by peer group pressure • Explain what sociologists mean by the marketisation of education	• Describe **one** way in which parents can assist their children to achieve well at school **and** explain how this would help • Describe **one** way in which governments have attempted to check what happens in schools **and** explain what effect such monitoring may have on a school • Describe **one** way in which a school can try to raise pupil performance **and** explain how this may lead to an improvement in educational achievement • Describe **one** government educational reform of the last 25 years **and** explain how this may have increased or decreased educational opportunities • Describe **one** way in which schools attempt to encourage a sense of what it means to be British **and** explain how this may help to improve social cohesion • Describe **one** government policy of the last 20 years which has attempted to widen the range of young people participating in post-16 education. Explain how this policy may or may not have increased educational opportunities • Describe **one** way in which teacher expectations can affect attainment **and** explain how this may or may not lead to an improvement in educational achievement • Describe **one** way in which a personal tutor or mentor can try to raise individual pupil performance **and** explain how this may lead to an improvement in educational achievement • Describe **one** way in which a school's performance is measured **and** explain how this may or may not be a good way of measuring the standards of a school • Describe **one** function that education may perform for society **and** explain how this may benefit society • Describe **one** way in which schools put pupils into groups **and** explain how this may affect a pupil's educational achievement • Describe **one** government policy of the past 25 years which has attempted to improve educational standards **and** explain how successful this policy has been • Describe **one** type of secondary school found in Britain **and** explain how it is different from **one other** type of secondary school • Describe **one** government policy of the past 20 years which has attempted to improve educational opportunities for pupils from less wealthy backgrounds **and** explain how successful this policy has been • Describe **one** function that education is expected to perform in today's society **and** explain how successful the education system has been in performing this function. • Describe **one** way in which governments have attempted to encourage competition between schools in the past 30 years **and** explain why competition between schools may or may not be beneficial • Describe **one** characteristic of an independent school **and** explain why some sociologists may criticise or support the existence of independent schools. • Describe **one** method used to educate pupils with special educational needs **and** explain the advantages of this method of education

12 mark essay questions

- Discuss how far sociologists would agree that educational reforms over the last 25 years have been successful in raising the achievement of **all** pupils.
- *Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the situation in a pupil's home is a more important cause of educational under-achievement than the type of school he or she attends.*
- Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the way in which pupils are grouped within a school has a significant effect on their educational performance
- *Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the main function of schools is to teach children to become part of society*
- Discuss how far sociologists would agree that a student's ethnic background is the main reason for differences in educational achievement
- *Discuss how far sociologists would agree that peer group pressure has a significant effect on a student's choice of subjects at school and of courses at college.*
- Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the social class background of pupils has a significant effect on their educational performance
- *Discuss how far sociologists would agree that gender inequalities still exist within education in Britain*
- Discuss how far sociologists would agree that peer group pressure has a significant effect on a pupil's educational achievement
- *Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the improvement in pupil achievement in examinations has been the result of educational reforms in the past 25 years*
- Discuss how far sociologists would agree that a pupil's social class background is the main reason for differences in educational achievement
- *Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the type of school a child attends has a significant effect on his/her life chances*
- Discuss how far sociologists would agree that pupils' gender is the main reason for differences in their educational achievement
- *Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the main function of schools is to prepare pupils for the workplace*
- Discuss how far sociologists would agree that a pupil's ethnicity is the main reason for differences in educational achievement
- *Discuss how far sociologists would agree that parental attitudes have a significant effect on a child's educational success*
- Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the type of school pupils attend has a significant effect on their chances of educational success.
- *Discuss how far sociologists would agree that educational reforms over the past 30 years have led to improvements in the educational performance of all pupils.*

Families: Past Paper Questions

2 mark questions	4 mark questions	5 mark questions
• Identify **two** reasons for the rise in single person households from 1971 to 2006 • Identify **two** reasons why the average age at which people get married has increased in the last 30 years • Identify **two** reasons why there has been an increase in the percentage of children living in lone parent families in the last 30 years or so. • Identify **two** possible consequences of living in a stepfamily • Identify **two** consequences of divorce for family members • Identify **two** reasons why there has been an increase in the number of children being born outside marriage in the past 50 years • Identify **two** family types found in Britain • Identify **two** reasons for the increase in single person households over the past 40 years. • Identify **two** reasons for the increase in cohabitation over the past 20 years	• Explain what sociologists mean by an extended family • Explain what sociologists mean by a traditional nuclear family • Explain what sociologists mean by a reconstituted family • Explain what sociologists mean by authority relationships in families • Explain what sociologists mean by primary socialisation • Explain what sociologists mean by cohabitation • Explain what sociologists mean by the domestic division of labour • Explain what sociologists mean by family diversity • Explain what sociologists mean by a symmetrical family	• Describe **one** form of help which a grandparent might provide for a family **and** explain how this may help members of a family • Describe **one** way in which governments might provide assistance to lone parent families **and** explain how this would assist lone parents • Describe **one** possible consequence of divorce for husbands **and** explain how this may have an effect on them • Describe **one** change in family size in Britain **and** explain why this change has occurred • Describe **one** way in which relations between parents and children have changed in the last 30 years or so **and** explain why this change has happened • Describe the feminist approach to the family **and** explain how this approach is different from other sociological approaches • Describe **one** change in the role of women in families **and** explain why this change has occurred • Describe how the pattern of divorce has changed in Britain over the last 50 years **and** explain why this pattern has occurred • Describe **one** family type found in Britain **and** explain how it is different from any **one** other family type • Describe **one** way in which an individual's family or household situation might change over the course of their life, **apart from** divorce, **and** explain why this change may occur. • Describe **one** way in which gender roles in the family have changed in the past 50 years **and** explain why this change has happened. • Describe **one** family type which is more commonly found in Britain today than in the 1970s **and** explain why this change has happened • Describe **one** way in which relations between parents and their children have changed in the past 50 years **and** explain why this change has happened • Describe the functionalist approach to the family **and** explain how it differs from **one other** sociological approach • Describe **one** way in which grandparents can contribute to family life **and** explain how this may help other family members • Describe **one** criticism of the traditional nuclear family made by some sociologists **and** explain why other sociologists might not agree • Describe **one** characteristic of a cereal packet family **and** explain why some sociologists believe this does not represent the reality of family life in modern Britain • Describe **one** way in which gender roles have changed within families **and** explain why this change has happened

12 mark essay questions

- Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the nuclear family is the norm in Britain today
- Discuss how far sociologists would agree that inequalities exist within the home
- Discuss how far sociologists would agree that marriage is still considered important in modern British society
- Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the traditional nuclear family is the most appropriate family type in which to raise children in modern Britain.
- Discuss how far sociologists would agree that there is equality between men and women in the family.
- Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the wider extended family is becoming less important in society today.
- Discuss how far sociologists would agree that there is no longer a typical British family.
- Discuss how far sociologists would agree that changes in family size have led to families becoming more child-centred
- Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the roles of men and women in families have changed significantly in the past 50 years
- Discuss how far sociologists would agree that changes in the divorce rate over the past 50 years are due to changes in the law
- Discuss how far sociologists would agree that marriage is important in Britain today
- Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the nuclear family is no longer the norm in modern Britain
- Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the roles of men and women in the family have changed significantly in the past 50 years.
- Discuss how far sociologists would agree that extended family members play an important role in British families
- Discuss how far sociologists would agree that marriage is no longer seen as important in modern British society
- Discuss how far sociologists would agree that changing social attitudes are the main reason for changes in the divorce rate over the past 50 years
- Discuss how far sociologists would agree that there is no longer a typical family in Britain
- Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the modern family has become more child-centred.