






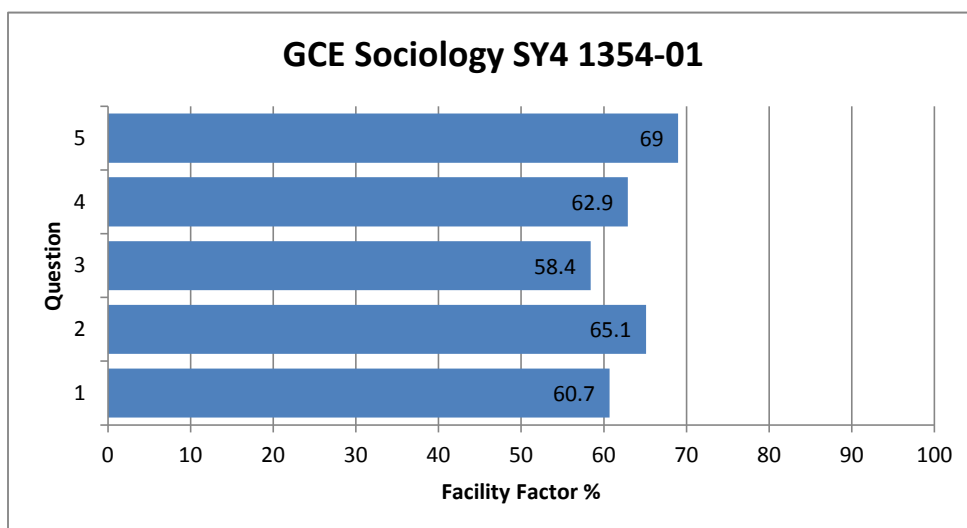


## GCE Sociology SY4 1354-01 All

Candidates' performance across questions

						
<i>Question Title</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>S D</i>	<i>Max Mark</i>	<i>F F</i>	<i>Attempt %</i>
1	1451	24.3	6.4	40	60.7	99.9
2	267	32.6	9.2	50	65.1	18.4
3	101	29.2	9.4	50	58.4	7
4	540	31.4	9.3	50	62.9	37.2
5	541	34.5	8.5	50	69	37.3



### Compulsory

1. Look at the item below and answer the following questions.

#### Women and Work

This study aimed to understand the everyday experiences of women with dependent children who were entering training or paid work. This was a small scale project focusing on 12 women. The research aimed to collect detailed information about the everyday lived experiences of the women and how they balanced the demands of motherhood and work. The researchers used semi-structured interviews, in-depth interviews and focus groups. The women also kept **diaries** for three weeks.

*Source: [www.socresonline.org.uk/Women, Care and Transitions](http://www.socresonline.org.uk/Women, Care and Transitions). Sociological Research Online, vol.8(3)*

- (a) Identify and explain **two** reasons why the researchers decided to ask the women to keep **diaries**. [10]
- (b) As an A Level Sociology student you have been asked to design a research project to collect **quantitative** data on gender roles in families. Your sample should be representative of families in your area.
- Outline **each** stage of your research design explaining the reasons for your choices at **each** stage.
  - Identify some of the problems that may occur and their impact on the quality of the data collected. [30]

OER Template \_ Question

Q1

1a 'They interviewed 61 people using a semi-structured interview in which respondents were encouraged to elaborate on their answers.' This is an interpretivist method as it helps gather qualitative data on the sampling population's experience. It is also high in validity as people are not set to a particular question or answer to give. <sup>+quan</sup> ~~descriptive~~

'In this way researchers were able to gather both qualitative and quantitative data' This is triangulation to the extent it is ~~within method triangulation~~ as a semi-structured interview allows the use of closed and open questions and the option of further elaboration.



OER Template Example

1

1a	<p>One reason the researchers decided to use semi-structured interviews is because the <u>subject matter is very sensitive</u> and by using semi-structured interviews they are able to go <u>in depth on certain topics that the respondent feels comfortable speaking about</u>. The nature of semi-structured interviews also gives off a <u>conversational style but still allowing the interviewer to stay on point</u>. "They interviewed 61 people using a semi-structured interview in which respondents were encouraged to elaborate on their answers."</p> <p>A second reason they used semi-structured interviews was so they were able to measure what their views on the subject matter were against what was actually happening. The interviewer was able to <u>steer the conversation around their questions and prompts but the respondent was able to elaborate on their personal experiences which would make the data collected that more valid</u>.</p>
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OER Template Example

2



2b for my research design I will be applying a interviewist method to collect qualitative data on attitudes pregnant women in my area have of the National Health Service as I would like to reach a correlational relationship of social factors and to reach a conclusion.

The population I will be sampling is pregnant women throughout Cornwall, being my local area.



**sample** my sampling method chosen will be using local national health service records or patient list from hospitals or young mother colleges or even mother and baby groups if not all.

I will collect this sample by applying a cluster sample to major areas in my local area and possibly stratify the sample within each sample, this helps makes my sample population more representative. - why? needs exp how?

**Method** semi + focus I would use ~~would be~~ semi-structured interviews and a focus group method. I would apply these to create a valid outcome as some things not mentioned in a semi-structured interview may be mentioned in the focus group discussion.

**ethics** for the ethical issues within my research design I will give out forms explaining my intentions in full explanation and address each person expressing their view and whether they consent to the information given. I will so include the fact the interviewees names and details will be kept anonymous. ~~to~~ Problems with my



pilot  
|

research design is whether it can actually work, therefore to improve this I would apply a pilot study, a smaller scaled version of the research design to test its ability, to assess whether my research design is valid.

Pr

Another problem is whether the data I collect from my research design is representative and generalised there I would use <sup>sample</sup> between method triangulation also to be able to also apply a social survey to recently new mothers or current pregnant women to ask their opinions on the National Health Service.

Some confusion / needs dev / exp  
Any concepts in need of dev. 7+7



14

OER Template Example

3

1b To collect qualitative data on attitudes to the National Health Service I would adopt an Interpretivist approach. An Interpretivist approach allows me to achieve Verstehen - which is to see how others see, understand how others understand - and collect qualitative data. The research question I would be aiming to answer would be: Does the NHS treat pregnant teenagers worse than older pregnant women?

The sampling method I would employ would be semi-structured interviews and overt non-participant observation. This would allow me to seek the pregnant woman's opinion on how she was treated then see my own opinion based on the visit itself. Using both semi-structured and non-participant observation helps increase the validity of my data. The sampling unit would be females aged fourteen to thirty-two. My sampling frame would be at the hospital in the maternity wards. The sample design I would use would be ~~cluster~~ snowball sampling as one of the respondents could lead me to another pregnant woman who is willing to participate and could inform me of other potential participants who go to other hospitals. The focus area of the study would





De Cornwall as its a larger area, which would increase representativeness and generalisability.

*eth* ~~most~~ ethical problems will be overcome as I will give informed consent to the <sup>pregnant</sup> ~~pregnant~~ women participating in my study and give them anonymity but ~~at the same time~~ the study isn't completely ethically sound as the doctors won't be completely informed. This is because informing the doctors that the study will be on how they treat their pregnant patients would decrease the validity of the data collected as it would be extremely likely that the doctors would alter their behaviour.

*pr* Other problems that would occur during the course of my study would be access to hospital appointments and finding an equal amount of ~~proportion~~ participants from both scales of the sample unit. ~~finding the same amount of pregnant teens as older pregnant women~~ To some couples, the hospital appointments are a very intimate moment between parent and child and they might not want a stranger to sit in on these sessions. For my study to produce valid data, I would need to find the same amount of pregnant teens as the amount of older pregnant women that will participate.

Before carrying out this study, I would use a pilot study to show me which areas I need to focus on. This would allow me to save time and give me a better chance to increase the amount of data collected. I would also, perhaps, use questionnaires in my field study which would triangulate the data I collected and increase the validity.

Some confusion in / \$ Basic / Attempt at research

6+7

13.

*Choose **one** question from the following options.*

**Understanding Social Inequality**

**Either,**

4. (a) Identify **two** areas of life in the contemporary UK where there is evidence of inequality. Illustrate your answer with reference to evidence for **each** area identified. [20]
- (b) Evaluate the view that all inequality is class inequality. [30]

OER Template \_ Question

Q2



4 a) one area of contemporary life where gender inequalities can be illustrated is in the work place as women are paid  $\frac{1}{3}$  less than men in the same job applying the same rule.

Another area can be seen within the criminal justice system as judges are more lenient to give women a custodial sentence than men even for the same offence.

These statistics illustrate gender inequalities in contemporary UK to the extent



that they show statistics of gender inequality for example the fact of gender inequalities in wages is a statistic that cannot be trusted, like many as it can be argued all statistics are there to hide the true extent of any anymore of gender inequality.

2 areas,  
brief eg's

3+3



6

4a) Inequality is differences in life chances (Weber, 1864-1920). Gender ~~is associated with~~ is associated with masculine and feminine qualities and roles which children learn through, predominantly, secondary socialisation. Two areas in contemporary UK where there is evidence of gender inequality are the mass media and work (paid and domestic).

media There are obvious gender inequalities in the mass media today. Women are presented as sex objects or as weak, brainless bimbos. The ones who aren't are unattractive, single spinsters. There are usually three different categories that women are put in to concerning the media: the pretty,



dumb, weak housewife, born only to marry a strong, smart, handsome man who will take care of her and their children. The successful, cold hearted, cut-throat bitch that has either no personal life or an unhappy one. Lastly the sex object, the women that seem to have no real talent or purpose other than to be there for the men, they sleep around. None of these options seem very appealing, or give young girls a good example to follow.

Men, on the other hand, are portrayed in the mass media to be strong and handsome, the one who goes out to work ~~then~~ and brings in the money. He takes the boys camping and to football matches and is the man of the house. Most characteristics that the mass media portray for men are that they are strong and handsome, successful and a good role model, ~~and~~ charming and decisive. A man is praised if he sleeps around.

There are massive gender inequalities shown in the mass media and way too many double standards to identify but sexism in the mass media is a lot like institutional racism - rules and assumptions built into the rules and routines of Britain's social institutions which neglect the needs of ethnic minorities - it is often taken for granted and habitual. These are the stereotypes that we have been living with forever. eg kids no evidence

wk

A second area in contemporary UK where there is evidence of gender inequality is work. In both domestic and paid labour it is easy to see the gender divide. If there are two people going for a managerial job - one male, one female, the male is more likely to receive the job even if the female is more qualified. This is commonly referred to as 'The Glass Ceiling' ~~which~~ <sup>which</sup> argues that there is an invisible barrier to stop women from getting above a certain level - job status - in the workplace. Though this does seem to be becoming less of a problem as time goes on, women have been excelling in the workplace in modern times though there is still some lingering sexism which could prevent them from achieving their full potential. There are also large inequalities in domestic labour as women mostly work what is called the 'Triple Shift' which is where they work all day - paid labour - are expected to come home and complete the domestic ~~tasks~~ <sup>chores</sup> while also dealing

Question  
number

Leave  
Blank

	with the children. Men are only expected to go to work then
	come home and put their feet up, eat the meal their wife
	has <del>cooked</del> and go to bed. 5 + 5
	generalised



10



4b Many sociological questions arise when looking at gender inequalities and many sociological explanations feel they answer it best.

✓ The explanation comes from the perspective of Marxist who believe gender inequalities have developed from capitalism and the continuing ideology of a patriarchal society and how the bourgeoisie dominate society just as men do. However this theory carries many flaws and is blind to the fact that biology has a role in the cause and explanation



Function?

of gender inequalities as  
realistic argue that is  
the biological differences  
between men and women

Why?

is what creates the  
inequalities throughout  
UK contemporary life as they  
believe the men are made  
and functioned to be strong,  
masculine and the provider  
and the women to be motherly  
and nurtured and sweet and  
fragile and it is these factors  
which apply to job gender  
inequalities and the fact  
judges are more lenient to  
women as they are seen as mothers  
and too sweet and kind to be in  
prison. Also it is the biological  
factor that women are created  
to produce, grow and carry  
children therefore they cannot  
work or commit crime (for example)

On the other hand  
Marxism would counter  
argue this biological theory  
on the basis that such  
an image of men and  
women was created and  
developed by capitalist  
as women cannot just be  
biologically sweet and innocent  
it is the ideology carried  
with it as well. Marxism  
would also argue such  
an argument is due to  
the theory of false con-  
sciousness.



usness and how society has become brainwashed into thinking no other way than the patriotic way.

yes they do. To conclude although many sociological theories try to explain why gender inequalities occur it is fact they are changing which none try to explain. And how ~~now~~ women and men can have same jobs and how household can have a house husband and a working wife. No theory explains that.

V. basic

$h + \frac{1}{2}$



8