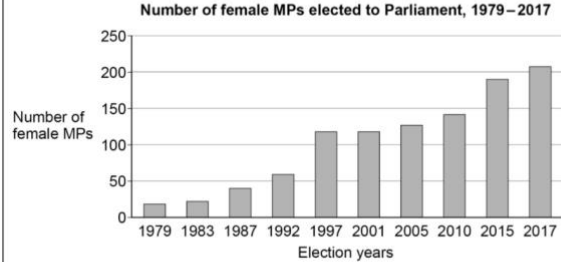
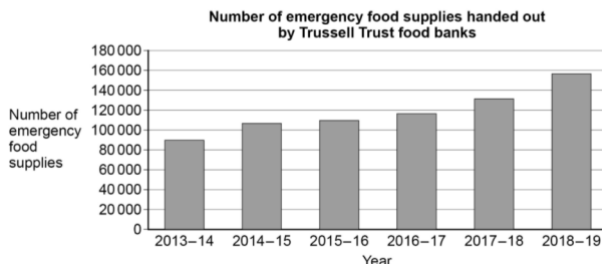


## Social Stratification - Items Exam Questions

Paper	Item C	Item D																									
SAM 1	<div>Item C</div> <div>The sociologist Steve Craine studied the lives of 39 unqualified urban school leavers, 19 males and 20 females, over a ten year period between 1980 and 1990. As a youth worker he was familiar with the area in which these young people lived and he used both his own observations and interviews in his research.</div> <div>Craine looked at how these young people's lives developed and how they made choices about what to do next. Many of the members of this group failed to secure long-term employment. They experienced regular cycles of unemployment, government schemes and work in the informal economy. Some individuals became involved in criminal activities. Only those who received appropriate support from professionals or family members were able to escape this cycle.</div> <div>From Item C, examine one strength of the research. [2 marks]</div>	<div>Item D</div> <div>In countries where modern civilization has become fully developed, a new class of petty bourgeois has been formed, fluctuating between proletariat and bourgeoisie. The individual members of this class, however, are being constantly hurled down into the proletariat by the action of competition. As modern industry develops, they even see the moment approaching when they will completely disappear as an independent section of modern society.</div> <div>Karl Marx (writing during the nineteenth century).</div> <div>From Item D, identify and describe one group that Marx believed had failed to benefit from the development of industry, including what you know of his perspective on these events. [4 marks]</div>																									
SAM 2	<div>Item C</div> <div>Based on data from a number of secondary sources a report from the Boston Consulting Group and the Sutton Trust identified the following obstacles to social mobility:</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Limited prospects for the future. The report concluded that individuals who become adults in the early 21st century are likely to be the first generation in modern times to earn less than their parents.</li><li>Attendance at University. The report concluded that students from lower socio-economic backgrounds are still far less likely to attend university than students from higher socio-economic backgrounds.</li><li>Graduate earning potential. The report concluded that even when less well-off students have attended the same university and studied the same subject as their wealthier peers they earn over 10% less per year.</li></ul></div> <div>Source: 'The State of Social Mobility in the UK', Boston Consulting Group and the Sutton Trust (2017).</div> <div>From Item C, examine one weakness of the research. [2 marks]</div>	<div>Item D</div> <div>American sociologists Davis and Moore (1945) believed that social stratification was a 'universal necessity' for all human societies. They argued that social stratification matched the most able people to the most important positions in society. By attaching the highest reward to these important positions, people with the necessary drive and ambition would be encouraged to compete for them. They believed that human society was basically meritocratic and that the most talented individuals would always achieve the greatest rewards.</div> <div>From Item D, identify and describe one group that would benefit from social stratification, including what you know of Davies and Moore's sociological perspective. [4 marks]</div>																									
2019	<div>Item C</div> <div>Peter Townsend developed a new way of looking at poverty by measuring relative deprivation.</div> <div>His research was largely based on detailed questionnaires issued to over 2000 households and over 6000 individuals. He used a 39-page questionnaire which included questions on housing and employment, cash income, assets and savings, health and disability, access to services and style of living.</div> <div>Townsend developed a 'deprivation index' based on the responses to his questionnaire. The higher an individual scored on this index the more deprived (relatively poor) he concluded they were.</div> <div>The table shows the percentage of men and women who said that they belonged to a particular social class and who had either very high or very low deprivation scores:</div> <table><tr><td></td><td>Middle class men</td><td>Working class men</td><td>Middle class women</td><td>Working class women</td></tr><tr><td>Highly deprived (Deprivation index 7+)</td><td>13%</td><td>84%</td><td>21%</td><td>77%</td></tr><tr><td>Number in each category</td><td colspan="2">102</td><td colspan="2">170</td></tr><tr><td>Not deprived (Deprivation index 0)</td><td>67%</td><td>29%</td><td>68%</td><td>29%</td></tr><tr><td>Number in each category</td><td colspan="2">69</td><td colspan="2">62</td></tr></table> <div>Source: Poverty in the United Kingdom (1979)</div>		Middle class men	Working class men	Middle class women	Working class women	Highly deprived (Deprivation index 7+)	13%	84%	21%	77%	Number in each category	102		170		Not deprived (Deprivation index 0)	67%	29%	68%	29%	Number in each category	69		62		<div>Item D</div> <div>Devine looked at social class and noted that it had not really changed as much as Goldthorpe and Lockwood had suggested. She rejected the idea of the 'new working class' and denied that more well-off workers accepted capitalism without criticism – many of those she interviewed continued to resent the privileges of inherited wealth – they thought that class inequality was deeply unfair.</div> <div>Source: Affluent Workers Revisited (1992)</div> <div>From Item D, identify and describe the one way Devine suggests that class attitudes have not changed significantly, including what you know of her perspective on this issue. [4 marks]</div>
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2020	<div><p><b>Item C</b></p><p>In 2017 the BBC published a breakdown of the gender of Members of Parliament (MPs). The data was provided by the House of Commons Library.</p><p><b>Number of female MPs elected to Parliament, 1979–2017</b></p><table><caption>Number of female MPs elected to Parliament, 1979–2017</caption><tr><th>Election years</th><th>Number of female MPs</th></tr><tr><td>1979</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>1983</td><td>25</td></tr><tr><td>1987</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>1992</td><td>60</td></tr><tr><td>1997</td><td>120</td></tr><tr><td>2001</td><td>125</td></tr><tr><td>2005</td><td>130</td></tr><tr><td>2010</td><td>145</td></tr><tr><td>2015</td><td>190</td></tr><tr><td>2017</td><td>210</td></tr></table><p>Source: House of Commons Library, BBC (2017)</p></div> <p>From <b>Item C</b>, examine <b>one strength</b> of the research. [2 marks]</p>	Election years	Number of female MPs	1979	20	1983	25	1987	40	1992	60	1997	120	2001	125	2005	130	2010	145	2015	190	2017	210	<div><p><b>Item D</b></p><p>Charles Murray wrote about social welfare policies in America in the second half of the 20th century. He argued that these policies had not worked. In his view it had become too easy for some people to claim welfare support and as a consequence they failed to take responsibility for their own lives. At the same time others who deserved help were not given the support that they needed.</p><p>He proposed that national welfare programmes for those of working age should be replaced by locally managed systems. He believed this would lead to people changing their behaviour. For instance, unemployed young people would have to rely on support from their parents with whom they would probably continue to live. Many parents would not want their adult children living off their income and would encourage their children to learn skills and get a job.</p><p>Murray believed that when it was no longer considered socially acceptable for individuals to be dependent on welfare payments, people would be forced to become more independent and self-sufficient.</p><p>Source: Charles Murray, Losing Ground, Basic Books (1984)</p></div> <p>From <b>Item D</b>, identify and explain <b>one</b> reason why <b>Murray believed that welfare reform was needed</b>, including what you know of his perspective on this issue. [4 marks]</p>
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2021	<div><p><b>Item C</b></p><p>Food banks are run by charities and give food away for free to those in need of emergency food supplies. In recent years, there has been a sharp increase in the use of food banks. In particular, there have been more people using them who are in employment, but in low-paid jobs (the 'working poor'). Some would argue that this is an indicator of an increase in poverty in the UK, as people cannot afford to buy the basic necessities to survive. This increased usage accounts for those both in and out of work. The Trussell Trust is a charity which runs food banks in the UK. In 2019, they released statistics showing the increase in usage of food banks over a five-year period.</p><p><b>Number of emergency food supplies handed out by Trussell Trust food banks</b></p><table><caption>Number of emergency food supplies handed out by Trussell Trust food banks</caption><tr><th>Year</th><th>Number of emergency food supplies</th></tr><tr><td>2013–14</td><td>90,000</td></tr><tr><td>2014–15</td><td>105,000</td></tr><tr><td>2015–16</td><td>110,000</td></tr><tr><td>2016–17</td><td>115,000</td></tr><tr><td>2017–18</td><td>130,000</td></tr><tr><td>2018–19</td><td>165,000</td></tr></table></div> <p>From <b>Item C</b>, examine <b>one weakness</b> of using non-official statistics to investigate poverty. [2 marks]</p>	Year	Number of emergency food supplies	2013–14	90,000	2014–15	105,000	2015–16	110,000	2016–17	115,000	2017–18	130,000	2018–19	165,000	<div><p><b>Item D</b></p><p>Max Weber was interested in social stratification, and how different groups of people came together to form classes. He believed the term social status could be applied in a positive or negative sense. His idea rested on the following important factors:</p><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• mode of living (lifestyle)</li><li>• level of education or training</li><li>• prestige (social importance of the family).</li></ul><p>Because of this range of factors, he believed that classes were not necessarily made up of people who were all the same, but groups who shared similar positions in the market economy – they shared similar earnings, interests and lifestyles.</p><p>Source: Weber, M, The Theory and Social and Economic Organisations, (1947)</p></div> <p>From <b>Item D</b>, identify and describe <b>one</b> factor that <b>Weber believed to be important when deciding on an individual's social status</b>, including what you know of his perspective on this issue. [4 marks]</p>								
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2022	<div>Item C</div> <div><p>The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) produced a report on university enrolment by personal characteristics from 2014/15 to 2018/19. This report found that the vast majority of students that attend university are from white backgrounds, although the number of students from minority ethnic backgrounds is increasing year on year.</p><table><thead><tr><th>Year</th><th>White</th><th>Black</th><th>Asian</th><th>Mixed/other</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2014-15</td><td>~1,400,000</td><td>~100,000</td><td>~100,000</td><td>~100,000</td></tr><tr><td>2016-17</td><td>~1,400,000</td><td>~100,000</td><td>~100,000</td><td>~100,000</td></tr><tr><td>2018-19</td><td>~1,400,000</td><td>~100,000</td><td>~100,000</td><td>~100,000</td></tr></tbody></table><p>Source: HESA 2020</p></div> <div>From Item C, examine one strength of the research. [2 marks]</div>	Year	White	Black	Asian	Mixed/other	2014-15	~1,400,000	~100,000	~100,000	~100,000	2016-17	~1,400,000	~100,000	~100,000	~100,000	2018-19	~1,400,000	~100,000	~100,000	~100,000	<div>Item D</div> <div><p>Walby believed that the key to understanding patriarchy was to appreciate how ideas of femininity and masculinity have changed. It was her view that despite some changes over time, masculinity has always been valued more than femininity. This is not just in one area of life, but in a whole range of patriarchal structures:</p><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the household</li><li>• paid work</li><li>• the state</li><li>• sexuality</li><li>• male violence towards women</li><li>• cultural institutions.</li></ul><p>Walby believed these patriarchal structures restricted women and helped to maintain male dominance in society.</p><p>Source: Walby, S, Theorizing Patriarchy, (1990)</p></div> <div>From Item D, identify and describe one patriarchal structure as identified by Walby, including what you know of her perspective of gender inequality. [4 marks]</div>
Year	White	Black	Asian	Mixed/other																		
2014-15	~1,400,000	~100,000	~100,000	~100,000																		
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2023	<div>Item C</div> <div><p>In 2020, Public Health England produced a report into the inequalities faced by ethnic minority women in their experiences of pregnancy and childbirth.</p><p>Researchers used a range of secondary sources to compile the report, including existing peer-reviewed smaller scale academic research, government research and guidance. The report found that women from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds were up to five times more likely to die during pregnancy than white women. A range of potential issues were considered, such as language barriers, poorer health, concentration in lower social classes and less chance of accessing and engaging with pregnancy services.</p><p>The report went on to recommend a range of interventions including improved access to maternity services, improved personalised care by the NHS and encouraging healthier lifestyles.</p><p>Source: Public Health, Reducing the inequality of outcomes for women from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities and their babies, 2020.</p></div> <div>From Item C, examine one weakness of the research. [2 marks]</div>	<div>Item D</div> <div><p>Peter Townsend took a different approach to measuring poverty as he believed existing official government measures to be inadequate. Governments used measures such as an individual's entitlement to claim benefits, or by setting a minimum household income level below which people were considered to be in poverty. Townsend believed that both of these measures are open to manipulation by the government of the day and failed to represent the true extent of poverty in the UK.</p><p>Townsend was interested in the idea of 'relative deprivation'. In his view, individuals were in poverty when they lacked the resources to obtain the type of diet, participate in the activities and enjoy the living conditions available to the vast majority of people in society.</p><p>Townsend used a team of researchers to deliver questionnaires (essentially a form of highly structured interview) to over 2,000 households and 6,000 individuals across a geographically spread sample. Based on an analysis of his findings, he estimated that 25% of the population were living in poverty, compared to only 7% using the government's measure.</p><p>Some researchers have been critical of Townsend's approach suggesting that relative deprivation is a flawed idea or by raising specific issues with regard to his chosen methods.</p><p>Source: Townsend, P, Poverty in the United Kingdom, 1979.</p></div> <div>From Item D, identify the research method used by Townsend and describe how his definition of poverty differed from the official definition, including what you know of his perspective on the issue. [4 marks]</div>																				