

Commentary on Candidate evidence

The evidence for these candidates has achieved the following marks for each section of the assignment.

Candidate 1

Section A

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** because they explained the topics significance in the Introduction. The candidate states 'It's imported to understand how social mobility can be affected by factors such as education as if we can identify what causes the constant cycle of poverty...'.

The candidate also touches on the common sense approach to the topic, preconceptions held by the public and backed up by newspaper articles.

Section B

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** because the hypothesis is not entirely clear. This is because the candidate uses an either or statement in the hypothesis, '...chosed to be/remain in poverty...' that can mean very different things.

Section C

The candidate was awarded **5 marks** because there are clear findings expressed; two findings points from Study 1 and three points from Study 2 as detailed below:

Study 1

- ◆ 'higher class have more educational privileges'
- ◆ 'this gives these affluent kids.....'

Study 2

- ◆ 'all children come to school with a different background'
- ◆ 'more likely to fall behind in school'
- ◆ 'government is taking to closing this development'

Section D

The candidate was awarded **5 marks** because they made clear points that linked findings to the theory and to other evidence.

'The quality of education a person...a person with a good quality education are more likely to achieve a high-skilled job. In contrast.....'

'This factor is so significant ...' the candidate makes a point linking poor quality education to poverty. The candidate makes an analytical point about quantifying this inequality and refers to Goldthorpe.

The candidate refers to the Scottish Survey of Literacy and Numeracy and links the data to a functionalist view.

The candidate links Marxist view with points on wealthier parents being able to spend more time and money on their children's education.

Section E

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** because they made accurate, evaluative points on both studies; two points on Study 1 and one point on Study 2 as detailed below:

Study 1

The candidate makes the point that the study has a high degree of validity as it comes from Oxford university research. The study was done on a large scale.

Study 2

The candidate points out that this study may lack validity.

Section F

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because they stated that their investigation disproves their hypothesis and went on to make three further conclusion points;

- ◆ The candidate made a comparison of Marxist and functionalist views and reaches a conclusion.
- ◆ The candidate concludes that the wide majority of less affluent people won't achieve due to barriers.
- ◆ The candidate concludes that such barriers have arisen and are strengthened by capitalism.

Section G

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because references were given that were accurate and detailed.

Total marks 23/30

Candidate 2

Section A

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because they clearly explained the sociological significance of the topic:

- ◆ The candidate explained that media reinforces gender norms.
- ◆ The candidate made the point that women's achievements are often undervalued and under-reported in the media.
- ◆ The candidate explained the extreme objectification of women by the media.
- ◆ The candidate explains the consequences of this on women and men.

Section B

The candidate was awarded only **1 mark** because the hypothesis was not entirely clear.

Section C

The candidate was awarded **5 marks** because they made valid points on two findings from Source 1 and three points from Source 2.

Source 1

Only points on Bartky are credited due to the type of source used that is an encyclopaedia that detailed many perspectives, views and findings. Candidates are required to use data from one study hence only one can be credited.

- ◆ The candidate points out that women in patriarchal societies feel that men are watching them and therefore feel they need to please them.
- ◆ The candidate also explains the idea that a woman's body is an 'ornamented surface'.

Source 2

- ◆ The candidate makes the point about the creation of an impossible expectation of women.
- ◆ The candidate states that women are socialised to believe that they must look like a certain type of woman.
- ◆ The candidate explains that men are taught in primary socialisation to view women in a certain way.

Section D

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because they made points linking theory to findings and other evidence.

The candidate made a point that men have the power in a patriarchy and link this to objectification in the media.

The candidate makes a point about male objectification and gives examples. The candidate explains about false consciousness and that some women have internalised constructs of what women should look like etc.

Section E

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because they made one evaluative point about each source.

Source 1

The candidate makes the point that Stanford University is a world leading institution, making the source reliable.

Source 2

The candidate points out that the source may be bias, based on one person's experience.

Section F

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** because the only relevant point they make is in stating that their hypothesis has been supported.

Section G

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because the references are accurate and detailed enough to easily find the studies used.

Total marks 19/30

Candidate 3

Section A

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because they clearly explained the sociological significance of the topic and provided contrasting sociological and common sense approaches to the topic:

- ◆ The candidate explained the significance of obesity in modern society and also the role/lack of action from government.
- ◆ The candidate explained sociological explanations of this issue in contrast to common sense views.

Section B

The candidate was awarded only **1 mark** because the hypothesis was a topic/issue rather than a hypothesis.

Section C

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because they made valid points on two findings from Source 1 and two points from Source 2.

Source 1

The candidate stated that the report found that health inequalities were widening. The candidate also provided detail on some recommendations from the Black report.

Source 2

The candidate gave findings from the Scottish Health Survey on Scotland's obesity levels.

The candidate also provided detail from the survey on the costs and impact of obesity.

Section D

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** because they made points linking theory to findings and other evidence.

The candidate made a link between childhood obesity and deprivation and then linked this point to further evidence from the Fabian society.

The candidate explained a Marxist view and linked this to lobbying.

The candidate linked bad health to an inability to carry out roles effectively - linking to functionalism.

Section E

The candidate was awarded **0 marks** because there were no accurate points made.

Section F

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because they stated their hypothesis was proven and made three further conclusion points.

The candidate clearly states their hypothesis was proven.

The candidate is credited for making a conclusive point on cultural bias against obesity (located just above the conclusion).

The candidate then makes a point on possible improvements; 'without changes in education' and 'but for the working poor.....'

Section G

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because references are accurate and detailed enough to easily find the studies used.

Total marks 18/30

Candidate 4

Section A

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because they clearly explained the sociological significance of the topic.

The candidate explains that gender is a social construct and backs this up with references. The candidate made the point that many parents continue to encourage their children to watch these movies.

The candidate contrasts sociological and common sense views of this topic and explains them well.

Section B

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because their hypothesis is clear and stated.

Section C

The candidate was awarded **6 marks** because they made valid points on three findings from Source 1 and three points from Source 2.

Source 1

The candidate provides three clear findings and explains the findings in detail; going far beyond what is required to gain 3 marks.

‘The first finding for this study was behaviour. Golden found that girls who participated in princess play...was significantly different to girls who did not participate.’ The candidate then provides more detail on this type of finding including the link between the type of play and the importance of physical attraction.

In the second finding the candidate notes that Golden notes ‘unhealthy competition’ vis-à-vis physical beauty and encouraging girls to concentrate on physical beauty above other things such as friendship.

Another finding the candidate points out is that ‘...participants of the study began to display unique body movements that could be attributed to classic ‘Princess behaviour’ such as ballroom dancing, twirling and holding their hands in a modest prayer like manner...’

Source 2

Again, the candidate provides three clear findings and explains the findings in detail; going far beyond what is required to gain 3 marks.

- ◆ ‘Wohlwend finds a number of similar trendsthat are supported by Golden’s later adaptation. For example, Wohlwend discovers that the children who adopt the princess personas become obsessed by looks, and comments acknowledging their beauty were considered valuable....’

- ◆ 'In the second finding, the girls held power over the boys by excluding them from their princess roleplay...'
- ◆ 'Wohlwend suggests that despite this progressiveness, the girl still struggled with incorporating Disney's female passivity into her princess play...'

Section D

The candidate was awarded **5 marks** because they made points linking theory to findings and other evidence.

The candidate linked functionalism to the findings of Golden's study, making points on gender roles and division of labour and linking this to other evidence. The candidate critiques functionalism using the example of Merida's mother.

The candidate links the study findings to the concept of westernising youth. The candidate also makes a point about comic books hypersexualising women and self-objectification, linking this back to the study used.

Section E

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** because they made two evaluative points about Source 1 and one point about Source 2

Source 1

The candidate makes the point that a limitation of Wohlwend's study was that data was collected from three girls, making it difficult to generalise.

The candidate also points out that the study's focus was on young girls relationships with Disney Princesses and very little consideration is given to boys.

Source 2

The candidate cites the long term nature of Wohlwend's study as a positive.

Section F

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because they stated their hypothesis was proven and made three further points.

The candidate concludes that 'This shows that each child's interpretation... is unique....which means a definite answer cannot be made.'

The candidate explores arguments as to what should be done, for instance 'should there be a policy or age rating on Disney Princess movies?'

The candidate further concluded that Disney should continue to progress in creating more gender blind material.

Section G

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because the references are accurate and detailed enough to easily find the studies used.

Total marks 26/30

Candidate 5

Section A

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because they clearly explained the sociological significance of the topic.

The candidate makes developed points explaining the current issue with regards to gender and attainment, including the link between attainment and carer prospects.

The candidate contrasts sociological and common sense views of this topic and explains them well.

Section B

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because the hypothesis is clear and stated.

Section C

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because they made valid points on three findings from Source 1 and one from Source 2.

Source 1

The candidate makes reference to PISA data used by Francis and Skelton, illustrating gender differences in performance.

The candidate referred to the finding that educational attainment of females may be related to their abilities in language and literacy.

The candidate made reference to the fact that the gender gap is not a new educational phenomenon.

Source 2

The candidate highlighted the finding that 61.7% of girls achieve at least five GCSEs A-C compared to 51.6% of boys.

Section D

The candidate was awarded **5 marks** because they made points linking theory to findings and other evidence.

The candidate linked attainment to socialisation, for instance 'boys are given football strips and lego bricks'.

The candidate explains meritocracy and functionalist views of education/attainment.

The candidate explains that the concern over boys' attainment may be seen as a moral panic.

The point is made that despite their success, women still don't reap the full rewards of their attainment in the workplace, pay and so on. Gender inequality persists.

Section E

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** because they made one accurate evaluative point about Source 2.

Source 2

The candidate explains the advantages of using Official Statistics as a research method, in covering a large sample.

Section F

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** because they stated their hypothesis was proven and made two further points.

- ◆ The candidate concludes that their hypothesis is proven.
- ◆ The candidate concludes that feminists take a different view, claiming that education reinforces inequalities.
- ◆ The candidate concludes that their successes do not provide an explanation as to why men continue to have more success than women in work.

Section G

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** for this section. The references are only partial. Some of the links given are not accurate and there is only a link to a graph for Source 2 rather than the website or document the graph is taken from.

Total marks 20/30

Candidate 6

Section A

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** because they explained the sociological significance of the topic in terms of the impact sectarianism has on everyday lives. This included legislation on sectarianism.

A definition of sectarianism was provided.

Section B

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because the hypothesis is clear and stated.

Section C

The candidate was awarded **6 marks** because they made valid points on three findings from Source 1 and three from Source 2.

The candidate stated three clear findings for each source used.

Source 1

'One finding from this is that sectarianism is ever present amongst the younger generation...' the candidate then provides facts and figures from the government publication used.

'Another finding.....that alcohol is a big factor in causing people to commit sectarian offences.' The candidate then provides evidence from the government publication.

'.....Glasgow is the city where sectarianism is the most present.....30% of charges throughout the whole of Scotland.'

Source 2

'One finding ...is that sectarianism was not perceived as happening everywhere. Certain times and places were frequently mentioned.....'

'Another finding...there was a strong gender element....'It was clear that subjects would only mention males as being the cause....'

'Lastly....sectarian attitudes are often passed down by older generations. Despite there being big changes in Scottish society throughout the years, participants in the study emphasised the role that families, and older generations amongst families play in transmitting these sectarian ideas....'.

Section D

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** because they made points linking theory to findings and other evidence.

The candidate linked the issue of sectarianism to labelling theory, referring to stereotypes.

The candidate linked Source 2 to Marxism, explaining that the bourgeoisie sell alcohol that fuels some sectarianism.

Furthermore, the candidate makes the point that sectarianism can be seen as a distraction from class conflict.

Section E

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** because they made one accurate evaluative point about Source 1 and two points about Source 2

Source 1

The candidate identifies a strength of an official government report, containing official statistics.

Source 2

The candidate explains the relative advantage of using qualitative data.

The candidate cites the possible disadvantage and explains that respondents may alter their answers in a group setting to fit in etc.

Section F

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** because they stated their hypothesis was proven, but no further points were made.

Section G

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because references were given as footnotes.

Total marks 20/30

Candidate 7

Section A

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** because they explained the sociological significance of the topic in terms of mass media as an agent of secondary socialisation.

The candidate also offered a sociological view, 'Marxists believe that ...'

The candidate also explained the sociological significance of the topic 'the relevance for sociologists...thinking and behaving.'

Section B

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because the hypothesis is clear and stated.

Section C

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because they made valid points on three findings from Source 1 and one from Source 2.

Source 1

The candidate explained the study findings on the men's reaction to being shown pictures of women size 8/10.

The candidate also explained the study finding that the men who moved out of the traditional area changed their perceptions of what was/not attractive.

The candidate also pointed out the finding that the men's perceptions were changed by the media.

Source 2

This 'study' is a combination of multiple names and content. The second half seems to relate to Cohen and cannot be credited as a study (findings).

The candidate was credited with the point that media exaggerated the trouble.

Section D

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because they made points linking theory to findings and other evidence.

The candidate linked gender socialisation, stereotypes and the 'ideal look' to media.

The candidate also develops a point on moral panics (N.B. they can use Cohen in analysis but not as their study).

Section E

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** because they made one evaluative point. The candidate identifies a weakness of The Yu study/source.

Section F

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because they stated their hypothesis was proven.

The candidate also refers to another study to back up their point ('Hoodies or AlterBoys').

Section G

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** because although references were given, they were not accurate.

Total marks 15/30

Candidate 8

Section A

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because they explained the sociological significance of the topic.

The candidate made points on media representation of mental illness and that they were arguably far from reality. The candidate also makes a point on the impact these representations may have.

The candidate refers to the sociological significance of the issue by providing some detailed facts on the scale of mental health issues and the impact it can have on health, employment and career etc.

Section B

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because the hypothesis is clear and stated.

Section C

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because they made valid points on two findings from Source 1 and two from Source 2.

Source 1

The candidate explained the findings that the majority of the media present the mentally ill as peculiar, different and dangerous.

The candidate also highlights the study's finding on lack of research carried out by media and how this impacts on audience perceptions.

Source 2

The candidate highlighted the source's point on the misleading information presented to the public, from many sources including media.

The candidate also highlights the finding that public knowledge of mental health issues have not improved.

Section D

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** because they made points linking theory to findings and other evidence.

The candidate linked the studies to their issue; the misconception of mental illness in society.

The candidate also links the images of mental health issues, media and reinforcing prejudice and stereotypes. This point is further developed by an example of Goths and Emos.

Section E

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** because they made one evaluative point about both sources; that they are both reliable as they are by Cambridge University.

Section F

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** because they stated their hypothesis was proven.

The candidate also refers to the change in attitudes to mental health in that it is no longer the taboo subject it once was, but that there is a long way to go.

Section G

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because references were given and are accurate.

Total marks 19/30