

Candidate 4 evidence

Question 1

A) One difference between common-sense approach and sociological approach is that common sense approaches are usually based on opinions and assumptions whereas the sociological approach is purely based on facts gathered by research, which aim is to figure out the "why" behind a social issue rather than relying on assumptions.

Another difference is that common-sense views are often biased and prejudices which can lead to unfair stereotypes being spread such as "people on benefits are just too lazy to work" whereas the sociological approach is completely unbiased as it is based on factual evidence, and aims to fight these common sense approaches to stop the spread of common sense assumptions.

B) A feature of a structured interview is that they usually consist of closed-questions which simply require a yes or no answer from the interviewee, for example, "Do you drink occasionally? yes or no?".

Another feature is that because they are closed questions, they produce quantitative data which means the results can be visually represented on graphs or bar charts which makes the process of analysing the data more convenient for the researcher as the results are easier to quantify.

C) One advantage of using participant observation as a research method is that it can produce raw, realistic behaviour from the target group being studied, especially if the researcher is unknown to the group and is covert. For example, if an undercover boss visits their store to measure staff performance. This means that the behavior recorded produces true and reliable data.

A disadvantage of using participant observation is that because the researcher be present at all times while the study is being conducted, it is very costly and time consuming as it means the researcher could take weeks, months and even years to finalise their study. For example, a researcher studying a drug gang may have to take their research on for months to collect their data.

D) One feature of official statistics is that the data collected is for big organisations such as NHS, Gov.Scotland, Police.Scotland etc, and is used to help prioritise funding for these companies or to help spot trends.

Another feature is that the data collected usually consists of quantitative data as it is collected from a large variety of society, which means the data collected is usually representative as it is collected from a large sample and is shown through line graphs or bar charts on their websites.

E) One feature of the action perspective is that sociologists who obtain a social action approach to society usually take a micro approach then analysing society, which means it looks at the small scale interactions within societies by individuals or small groups. For example, individual Rosa Parks who helped change civil rights movement in 1955.

Another feature is that data collected from social action sociologists usually result in qualitative data as sociologists who favour this approach use research methods that result in insightful data with opinions and reasonings being produced as they prefer to study the "why" behind people's actions and thoughts in order to develop a deeper understanding of the issue.

F) The structural perspective emphasizes how institutions within society such as media, family, education is what shapes us as human beings, from our behaviour to our values. For example, the structural perspective believes that institutions such as school shape us to be a working member of society by helping us with career paths and teaching us both work and life skills. Functionalists take a structural perspective view and believe that to maintain a working society, the individuals within it must coadhere with the institutions in order to create a successful, working society. So we must go to school to then go to work so we play our part in maintaining good function. They believe that certain people are a threat to society such as people on benefits for "no good reason" or obese people who "waste" NHS funding and equipment, and this all causes the downfall to a working society. To conclude, the structural perspective emphasizes the importance of maintaining functions within a society where the institutions within shape the individuals and their behaviour and norms.

Question 2

a) Primary socialisation is our first and most vital source of socialisations and all begins within our family. Primary socialisation can influence our behaviour in many ways, one being how we dress. Parents can influence how we dress to we maintain the "ideal" standard of dress code according to our gender. For example, parents may encourage girls to wear "feminine" colours such as pink or purple whereas boys may be encouraged to wear "masculine" colours such as blue or green. This is all intergrated into our minds and becomes a norm for us to dress this certain way.

Another way that family can influence our human behaviour is by the way they teach us social norms and values. They do this by rewarding our "good" behaviour with praise or gifts to encourage us to keep doing it while they punish us for our "bad" behavior by shouting at us or not letting us go see our friend for a week. This in the end teaches us how to behave in an appealing way to become a respected member of our society.

B) A culture we studied was the Amish culture. We watched an All4 documentary called 'One week with the Amish' to delve into their unique and rich culture.

One feature from the Amish culture was that they never use electricity (with the exception of generators) and they rely on buggies carted by horses for transport around town. This also means they also never go online as they have no use of phones. One reason they do this is to protect their culture from mainstream cultures such as the US from being exposed.

Another feature is their strict dress code. Women must wear bonnets with long dresses while the men must wear shirts that have three buttons coming down from their neck to reduce exposure incase they get too hot. Tattoos, make-up, jewelry and piercings are also strictly prohibited without exceptions. They must follow this dress code dress code to avoid being shunned or even banished from the community.

C) The term diversity means the co-existence of cultures and sub-cultures within a mainstream society, for example, the UK or the US. This is also known as multiculturalism. An example of this is in the UK where a huge variety of religions are worshipped such as Christianity, Judaism, Hindu etc and there are churches local that associate these religions all over the UK to ensure followers of these religions are provided for.

Diversity is also when people from different ethnic backgrounds live together on a mainstream society. For example, in London alone, there are over 300 languages spoken there every day! In addition, Scottish primary schools are also seeing an uprise in the number of languages spoken amongst the students, which shows us that the UK continues to become more diverse every day. It is important to adopt a cultural relevant mindset where all cultures are respected by non followers-as it promotes a harmonious global community where everyone is accepted, and is best to avoid an ethnocentric mindset where these cultures may be thought of as "weird" based purely on their norms and traditions.

D) A piece of research evidence that has helped me understand identity is the study that was recorded in documentary format called 'One week with 1UP'. The people being studied were a graffiti crew named 1UP whose sense of belonging and identity belonged with their passion for spraying their artwork in their town and being part of a group that shared the same values and norms. A part of their identity is their dress code that they strictly adhere to which includes wearing face coverings such as balaclavas and ski masks in order to conceal their identity from the public. This helped me understand how identity can relate to many aspects, and for this crew was their sense of belonging to the group where they identified with, and even their "safe space".

Question 3

A) Social class affects many aspects of our education, such as educational attainment to what school we must attend. A study that is good at explaining this is by Kingdon G and Cassen R in 2007 called understanding low achievement in English primary schools. They discovered that children who qualified for free school meals were associated with low education. These children come from areas where the unemployment rate is high and the qualifications achieved by parents are little to none. Kingdon and Cassen concluded that the children from lower classes don't receive the same educational values as higher class pupils do as they can not afford the same resources such as private tutors or educational days out, which explains why the children whose social class determined they were eligible for free school meals had limited resources and educational values.

B) One finding from the study 'Pygmalion in the classroom' was that children who were randomly selected by the researchers to be identified as 'bloomers'-which meant they were higher in intelligence- seen a massive uprise in their IQ over the school year compare to the students who weren't randomly selected as 'bloomers'. This shows us the great impact that teachers expectations have over their students and if teachers do not believe in a student, it will create a self-fulfilling prophecy where the student will start to lose belief in their abilities and continue to live up to the

low expectation in their education. Some go for the other way round if a teacher believes in a student's ability and prioritises them, that student will more likely succeed.

Another finding was that the researchers seen the biggest change in IQ in the younger students over the older students, and their IQ had become higher at an accelerating rate. Kingdon and Cassen concluded that this could be due to the younger students being more impressionable by their teachers and were more likely to listen more to what they had to say in order to achieve more. This shows us that children were more likely to work to their fullest achievement when the teacher was in full support of them and paid them more attention.

C) The social issue I will be talking about is poverty, which is when individuals within a society lack the resources needed to climb the income ladder. This is an issue as it not only affects an individual's wealth, but also their life chances, opportunities and health—both mentally and physically.

i) A sociological theory that is good at shedding light on the negative impact poverty has on individuals is Marxism. Marxists believe that there is an uneven distribution of wealth and opportunities between the bourgeoisie (upper class) and the proletariat (working class) and that society is run in a way to benefit the bourgeoisie and keep them rich while keeping the proletariat poor. They believe this is done by the bourgeoisie exploiting the proletariat through minimum wage jobs that offer little to no opportunities for career growth and poor working conditions such as long shifts with not enough breaks or dangerous work such as operating heavy machinery which could cause health issues. Marxists also believe that people who are born into wealth have little to no obstacles to face in order to become successful unlike children born into poverty and also believe someone born into poverty will likely remain in poverty. They believe that upper class children are given an automatic and unfair head start in their life due purely down to their parents' social class, unlike functionalists who believe everyone is given equal opportunities despite our social class and it is down to our own lack of determination and laziness if we fail to take those opportunities on board.

In the end, Marxists fight for equalness in society with everyone offered the same opportunities, and for the terms bourgeoisie and proletariat to be a thing of the past.

ii) A research study that highlights the devastation poverty can cause to individuals is from a book by Darren McGarvey called *Poverty Safari*, which tells us the struggles he and his four siblings endured in their life of poverty.

One finding was that all five of the siblings suffered health conditions as a result of poor nutrition. This can be down to many factors such as not being able to afford healthy foods and having to opt for more cheap, available fast foods or microwave meals that are normally very fatty.

Another finding was that out of the five siblings, two of them had tragically attempted to take their own lives one or more times. This shows us the severity of the impact poverty had on their mental health, and if they had more help financially and with their mental health, this could have helped prevent this. Unfortunately, people facing poverty often struggle to get doctors' appointments due to GP's not being in a close ~~neighbourhood~~ enough radius or long waiting lists.