

Past exam questions

Study **Item C**, then answer parts (a) to (d) which follow.

Item C

GCE A LEVEL EXAMINATION ENTRIES, UNITED KINGDOM – 2003/2004

Subject	Girls (Percentage Entry)	Boys (Percentage Entry)
Business Studies	47	53
Chemistry	51	49
English Literature	71	29
History	51	40
Maths	40	60
Physics	24	76

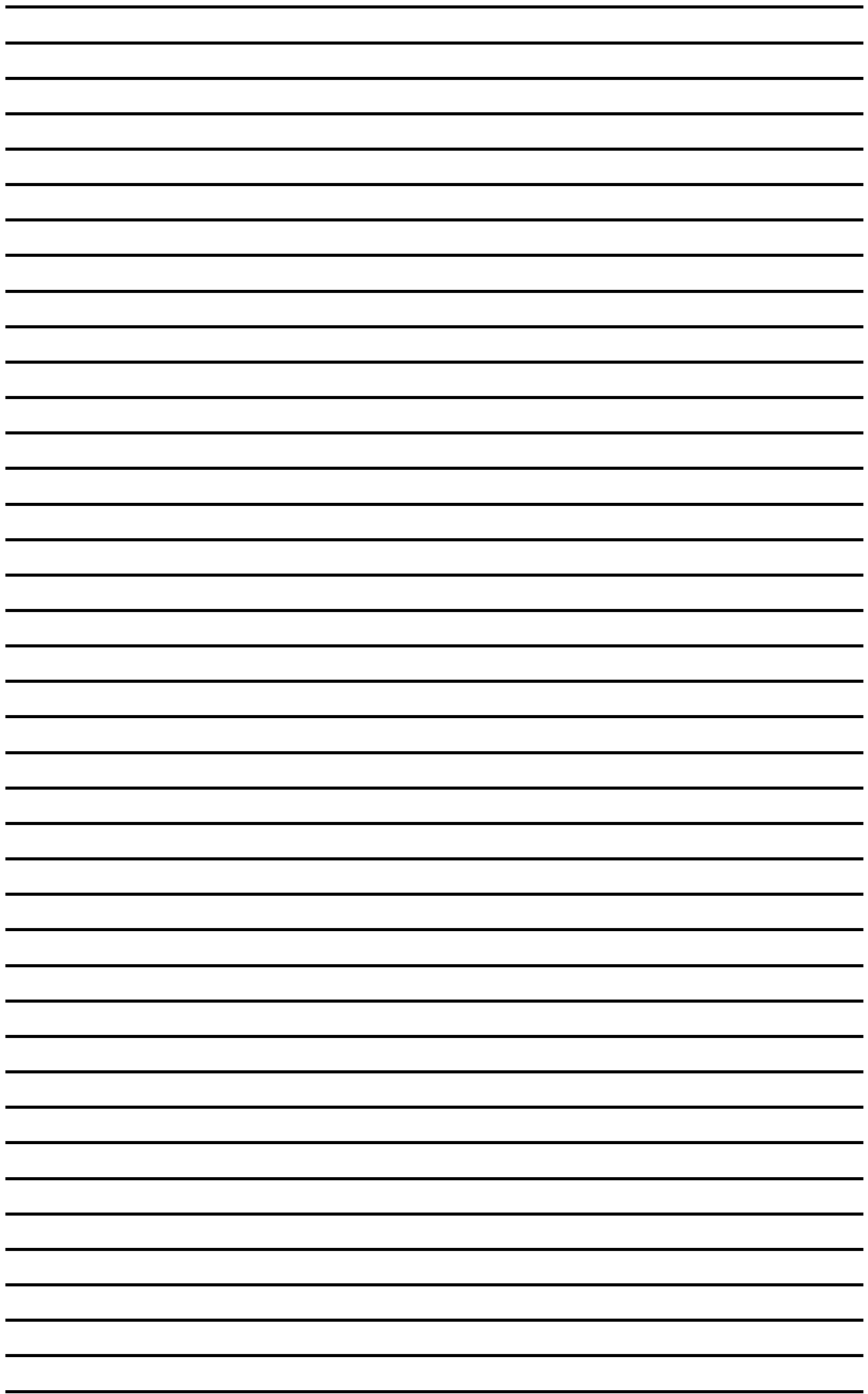
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- (a) According to the information in **Item C**, which subject had the largest percentage entry of girls? (*1 mark*)

- (b) Explain briefly what sociologists mean by the hidden curriculum. (*2 marks*)

- (c) Identify and explain **one** reason for the educational under-achievement of boys. (*3 marks*)

- (d) A pupil's gender is the most important influence on his or her educational achievements? Discuss (*15 marks*)



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Item C

ETHNICITY AND EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT IN BRITAIN

Chinese pupils were the most likely to gain 5 grades A* to C, with 79 per cent of the girls and 71 per cent of the boys obtaining these grades. Among Indian pupils 70 per cent of girls and 60 per cent of boys achieved 5 A* to C grades. Bangladeshi pupils have shown the greatest improvement at GCSE. Overall, girls continue to outperform boys.

Source: adapted from *Focus on Social Inequalities*, ONS, © Crown copyright, 2004

- (a) According to the information in **Item C**, did a higher proportion of Chinese boys or Indian girls obtain 5 GCSEs at grades A* to C? (1 mark)

- (b) Explain briefly **one** way that recent governments have tried to help schools to improve the level of their pupils' achievement. (2 marks)

- (c) Identify and explain **one** reason why girls outperform boys in examinations. (3 marks)

- (d) Differences in home background are the most important cause of differences in educational achievement between ethnic groups? Discuss(15 marks)

