

Psychology
Higher level
Paper 3

Thursday 7 May 2015 (morning)

1 hour

Instructions to candidates

- Do not turn over this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Read the passage carefully and then answer all the questions.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[30 marks]**.

The stimulus material below is based on a research article on first-time expectant fathers' experiences of their partners' pregnancies.

Most research on experiences of pregnancy has focused on motherhood whereas expectant fathers' transition to parenthood has not attracted much attention. This qualitative research study took place in Sweden, where expectant fathers' participation in all aspects of pregnancy, parent education, delivery and the care of the newborn baby is encouraged.

- 5 The aim of the study was to describe first-time expectant fathers' experiences of their partners' pregnancies. The purposive sample consisted of seven men living with their partners in an industrial town in southern Sweden. For both parents, this was their first child. The men were between 28 and 37 years old; all were either working or studying. They were recruited at the prenatal clinic and interviewed around two weeks before the baby was born.
- 10 Before the interview the seven participants were informed about the purpose of the project. They all gave written consent and were informed of their rights. A research ethics committee also approved the study.

- 15 The researcher in charge of the project conducted all the interviews herself. She decided to use narrative interviews to collect data. The men chose the time and place for the interview themselves. The participants were interviewed individually for around an hour. The opening question in all the interviews was: "Can you tell me about your own experiences of the pregnancy?" The interviews were audio-recorded with the permission of the participants and transcribed word for word by the interviewer. The transcripts were analysed using inductive content analysis (thematic analysis) in order to bring out emerging themes. Direct quotations
- 20 from the fathers were chosen to support each theme. To ensure credibility, consensus on the interpretation of the themes was reached with two other researchers.

- 25 The main finding of the study was that all the expectant fathers said they experienced "a time of transition" in adjusting to their new role as father. Their experiences were somewhat different but some changes reported by the expectant fathers during the pregnancy were "feelings of unreality", "feelings of insufficiency and inadequacy" and "feelings of responsibility". The researcher concluded that this study could give a preliminary insight into the experiences of Swedish first-time fathers. She also concluded that emotional support and encouragement for men during their partners' pregnancies should be considered as part of prenatal programmes but that more research is needed in order to develop specific programmes.

[Source: © International Baccalaureate Organization 2015]

Answer **all** of the following three questions, referring to the stimulus material in your answers. Marks will be awarded for demonstration of knowledge and understanding of **qualitative** research methodology.

1. Explain **two or more** considerations involved **before** conducting the interviews in this study. [10]
2. To what extent can findings from this qualitative study be generalized? [10]
3. Evaluate the use of narrative interviews in this study. [10]