

Psychology
Higher level
Paper 3

Wednesday 16 November 2016 (afternoon)

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 that describes some of the positive experiences of teenage motherhood that can occur in spite of challenges to the mothers' future plans.

In the United Kingdom, there is a general concern about teenage pregnancy because it is often associated with negative outcomes such as poverty, interrupted education and early entrance into the welfare system.

5 The aim of this study was to investigate how teenage mothers experienced motherhood and how this had influenced their expectations of the future. The two female researchers already worked with teenage mothers in a city in the United Kingdom before the study. According to them, previous research has primarily focused on the disadvantages of early motherhood, and not on how young mothers can overcome obstacles, even gaining psychological benefit from having a child.

10 Young mothers were identified based on specific criteria (for example, the child was born before the mother was twenty and was living with her). The mothers were found through a patient database of family doctors. Seventeen mothers were selected initially and nine agreed to be part of this purposive sample. The local research ethics committee gave ethical approval for the study. The participants were all informed about the study and their rights. They all gave
15 consent to participate. The names of the participants were changed in the final report.

The researchers carried out semi-structured interviews in the participants' homes. The interviews were audio-recorded and later transcribed verbatim to allow for inductive content analysis.

20 The results showed that at this point in their lives the young mothers were very positive about their experience of motherhood in spite of the challenges. Most of them had felt an immediate bond with the baby once it was born. Some said it was the right decision to keep the baby and that being a mother had made them "grow up". Some said that having responsibility for the baby made them more ambitious and determined to have a career although the pregnancy had for a time forced them to stop their education or work.

25 The researchers concluded that early motherhood does not necessarily have only negative outcomes. It may also be the turning point to maturity and development of a career, especially if young mothers are supported by family, health professionals and society.

[Source: Adapted from Clare J. Seamark and Pamela Lings, "Positive experiences of teenage motherhood: a qualitative study." *British Journal of General Practice*, 2004, 54, 813--818.]

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 **one** effect of participant expectations **and one** effect of researcher bias that could be relevant to this study. [10]
2. Evaluate the purposive sampling technique used in this study. [10]
3. Explain **two or more** ethical considerations relevant to this study. [10]