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Revision

Data exercise

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This issue contains an exercise to help revise some important points in the debate about sociology and science.

There is also a data exercise to practise your ability to understand and appropriately use data presented in a numerical format.

In addition, there is the second part of the presentation on fertility rates, an important aspect of families, households, population and demographic changes. This one focuses on fertility rates in the UK.

Exercise

Look carefully at the figures and answer their related questions. Remember that you need to be able not only to extract information from such data, but also interpret it.

Some things you need to know

- The figures relate to 2016–17 and are for state-funded schools in England.
- 'Attainment 8' is a measurement of how children perform in 8 GCSE qualifications.
- The average point score for all pupils was 46.3.
- Eligibility for free school meals (FSM) is used as an indicator of deprivation by the Department for Education.

Title: Attainment 8 scores by ethnicity. Location: England. Time period: 2016/17. Source: Department for Education | Ethnicity Facts and Figures GOV.UK

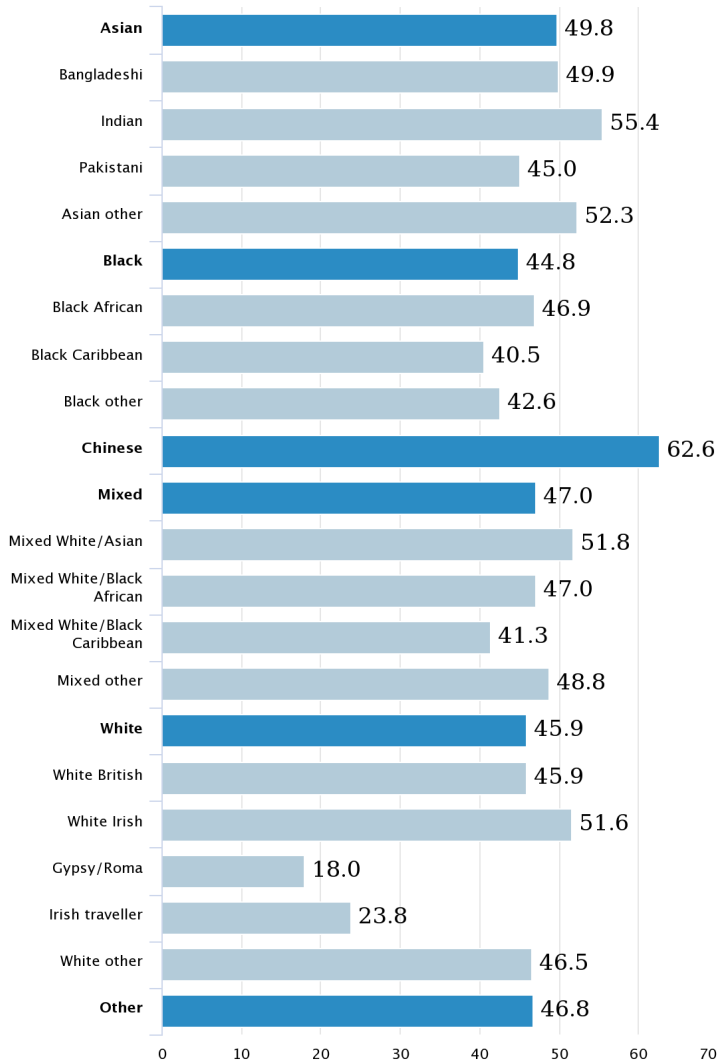


Figure 1 Attainment 8 scores by ethnicity and FSM eligibility

Questions

- 1 Which ethnic group achieved the highest score?
- 2 Which group achieved the lowest score?
- 3 Among the Asian group, what was the difference between the average score of Indian children and Pakistani children?
- 4 How much below the average score for all children was the score of the White British group?
- 5 What possible explanations might there be for the average scores of Chinese children?
- 6 What possible explanations might there be for the low average scores of Gypsy/Roma and Irish Traveller children?

Title: Attainment 8 scores by ethnicity and eligibility for free school meals. Location: England. Time period: 2016/17. Source: Department for Education | Ethnicity Facts and Figures GOV.UK

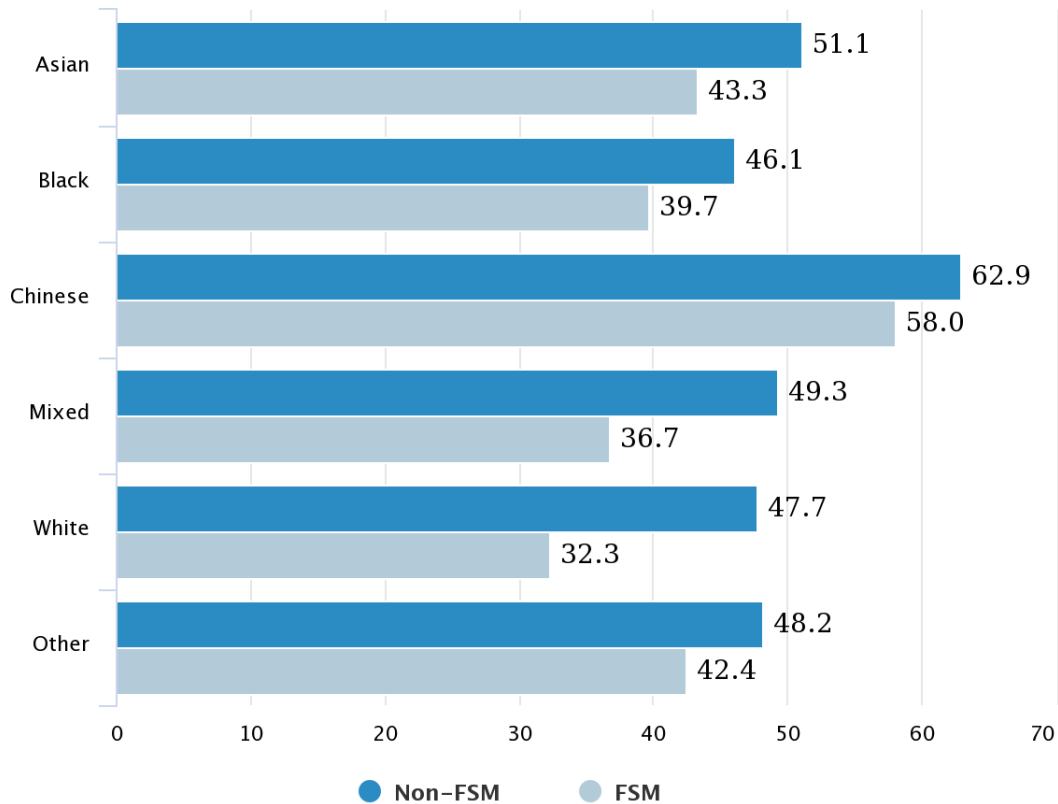


Figure 2 GCSE exam results by ethnicity and FSM

Questions

- 1 What was the difference in the average score between white British children who were eligible for free school meals and those in that group who were not?
- 2 Which group showed the least difference in average score between FSM and non-FSM children?
- 3 Which sub-group had the greatest number of children eligible for FSMs?
- 4 Which group of FSM children achieved the highest average score?
- 5 Identify two possible reasons why children eligible for FSMs might perform less well than their non-FSM peers.
- 6 How useful do you think it is to use FSMs as an indicator of deprivation?

Title: Attainment 8 scores by ethnicity and gender. Location: England. Time period: 2016/17. Source: Department for Education | Ethnicity Facts and Figures GOV.UK

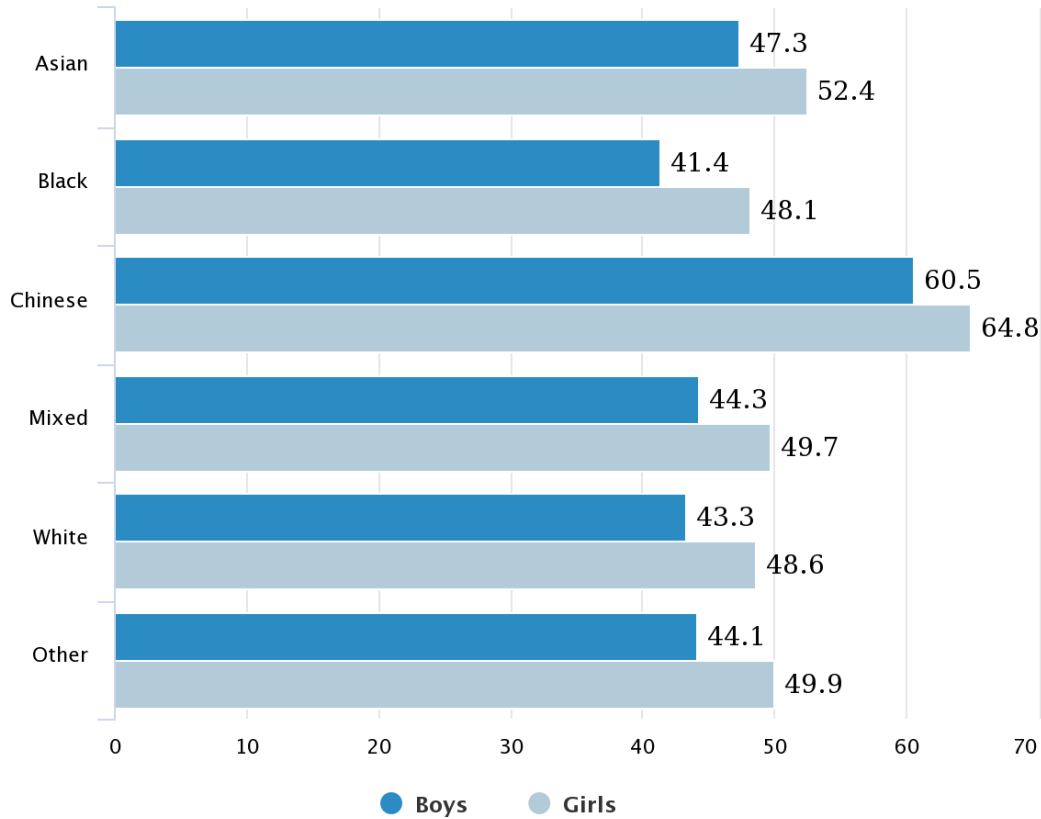


Figure 3 GCSE exam results by ethnicity and gender

Questions

- 1 Which group of girls had the second-highest points score?
- 2 In how many groups did the boys score higher than the girls?
- 3 What was the difference in the average point score between white British boys and white British girls?
- 4 Which three groups of children showed the lowest difference between the scores of boys and girls?
- 5 Which group of children showed the greatest difference between the scores of boys and girls?
- 6 Suggest two reasons why girls perform better on average than boys at GCSE.

Joan Garrod is a managing editor of SOCIOLOGY REVIEW.

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