

APPENDIX A

CRITERIA USED FOR ASSIGNING SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS

The father's occupation was used as an index of the students' socioeconomic status (SES). This classification will be similar to that used in other studies on Malaysian subjects (Sarjit, 1973; Chiam, 1976; Yong, 1986; Siti Nor Yaakob et al., 1990). There are two categories:

Category I: High SES

Two main levels of occupation are included into this category, namely, (1) professional and senior administrative positions, and (2) subprofessional and senior white collar as well as business occupation.

The high SES includes doctors, dentists, lawyers, accountants, senior civil service officials, graduate and college-trained teachers, all commissioned military officers, police personnels above the rank of inspectors, nurses, remeisiers, business executives and managers, directors, propitiators, or occupation that requires at least a college or university education.

Category II: Low SES

This category of SES includes skilled and unskilled labour, junior clerical, manual workers, and self-employed, traders and reporters who do not have education beyond secondary school level.

The low SES includes junior civil service employees, noncommissioned police and military personnel, technicians, carpenters, electricians, cooks, drivers, gardeners, labourers security officers of low education, farmers, pilots and businessmen of SPM/MCE level of education, drivers, hawkers, labourers, contractors, and clerical workers.

There will be some students who put their father's occupation as business men. For these cases, the categorization will take into account the father's educational level. For fathers who have college education and above, the students will be placed in the high SES group. For fathers who listed as businessmen but who have less than college education, the students will be placed into the low SES group.

For those who do not indicate the fathers' occupation, they will be categorized according to their fathers' education levels as mentioned above.