



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

**SOCIOLOGY**

**2251/02**

Paper 2

**October/November 2009**

**1 hour 45 minutes**

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

You may use a soft pencil for any diagrams, graphs or rough working.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer any **three** questions.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.



This document consists of **4** printed pages.



**Section A: Family**

- 1 Roles within the family have changed considerably in modern industrial societies since the nineteenth century.
- (a) What is meant by the term *role*? [2]
  - (b) Describe **two** examples of how roles within the family have changed since the nineteenth century. [4]
  - (c) Explain why the roles of children within families have changed since the nineteenth century. [6]
  - (d) To what extent is there equality in the roles performed by men and women in the family today? [8]
- 2 The divorce rate has risen in most modern industrial societies over the last fifty years. However, divorce is only one form of marital breakdown.
- (a) What is meant by the term *divorce*? [2]
  - (b) Describe **two** other forms of marital breakdown apart from divorce. [4]
  - (c) Explain why the divorce rate has risen in most modern industrial societies over the last fifty years. [6]
  - (d) To what extent is the institution of marriage in decline in modern industrial societies? [8]

**Section B: Education**

- 3 Although gender stereotyping still exists to some extent in schools, girls are now outperforming boys in many subjects.
- (a) What is meant by the term *gender stereotyping*? [2]
  - (b) Describe **two** reasons why girls are now outperforming boys in some subjects. [4]
  - (c) Explain why subject choice is still often influenced by gender. [6]
  - (d) To what extent are boys and girls treated differently within the education system? [8]

- 4 Formal education systems help to prepare young people for earning a living in modern industrial societies. Informal education performs a similar role in less industrial societies.
- (a) What is meant by the term *informal education*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** ways in which formal education helps to prepare young people for earning a living. [4]
- (c) Apart from preparing young people for earning a living, what other social functions are performed by formal education systems? [6]
- (d) How far do some social groups benefit more than other social groups from the education system in modern industrial societies? [8]

### Section C: Crime, Deviance and Social Control

- 5 What is seen as deviant in one culture may not be seen as deviant in another culture.
- (a) What is meant by the term *deviant*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** examples of how definitions of deviance may differ between cultures. [4]
- (c) Why might an act be defined as deviant when performed by members of one social group, but not when performed by members of another social group? [6]
- (d) To what extent can deviance be explained by the labelling theory? [8]
- 6 In modern industrial societies social order is maintained through a mix of formal and informal social control. In small scale tribal societies social control is mostly informal.
- (a) What is meant by the term *informal social control*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** examples of formal social control. [4]
- (c) Explain how social control is maintained in small scale, tribal societies. [6]
- (d) To what extent does social control serve the interests of the most powerful groups in society? [8]

**Section D: The Mass Media**

- 7 Sociologists disagree about how much influence the mass media have in shaping attitudes and behaviour.
- (a) What is meant by the term *mass media*? [2]
  - (b) Describe **two** examples of how information and ideas were communicated before the introduction of the mass media. [4]
  - (c) In what ways do the mass media influence the attitudes and behaviour of young people? [6]
  - (d) Assess the explanations that have been offered for the ways that the mass media influence behaviour. [8]
- 8 Newspapers do not simply reflect the world as it is. They filter and select the events they report and this sometimes leads to claims of bias and distortion.
- (a) What is meant by the term *bias*? [2]
  - (b) Describe **two** examples of how selective reporting may lead to bias and distortion in news reports. [4]
  - (c) What can members of the public do to counter bias and distortion in news reporting? [6]
  - (d) To what extent do newspaper owners influence what is reported in their newspapers? [8]