



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

CANDIDATE
NAME

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NUMBER

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SOCIOLOGY

2251/12

Paper 1

May/June 2011

2 hours 30 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

No additional materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

DO **NOT** WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

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.

You may not need all the answer lines for your answer.

Answer Question 1 and **three** questions from Sections **B** to **D**.

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

This document consists of **22** printed pages and **2** blank pages.



Section A: Research Methods

Questionnaires are a popular research method used in sociology. Closed or open-ended questions can be used to gain information. Respondents can fill in the questionnaire by themselves, or an interviewer may fill in the form for them. This method usually creates quantitative data which is useful in large-scale research.

When a group is studied at different stages over a long period of time, it is known as a longitudinal survey. There are a number of advantages and limitations with this type of survey.

In order to collect qualitative data, other methods such as participant observation may be used. Research that produces qualitative data is usually described as in-depth.

1 (a) In sociological research, what is meant by the following terms:

(i) open-ended questions

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..... [2]

(ii) respondents

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(iii) participant observation.

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..... [2]

(b) Distinguish between *qualitative* and *quantitative* data.

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(c) Describe **two** problems for the researcher when carrying out a questionnaire.

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(d) Describe **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of using an interviewer to ask questions when conducting a questionnaire.

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(e) Describe **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of using closed questions in a questionnaire.

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(f) Describe **two** strengths and **two** limitations of using longitudinal surveys.

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Section B: Culture and Socialisation

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2 Sociologists believe that primary socialisation is carried out by the family. One of the main ways children learn the norms and values of society is through interaction with their parents.

(a) What is meant by the term *interaction*?

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(b) Describe **two** features of primary socialisation.

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3 Functionalist sociologists believe that social order is based on shared values. People are encouraged to accept these values through the processes of social control.

(a) What is meant by the term *social order*?

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(b) Distinguish between *formal* and *informal* social control.

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Section C: Social Stratification and Inequality

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4 Sociologists claim that females and males experienced different gender socialisation in the past. This had a large impact on their life chances. However, social divisions between females and males may be disappearing today.

(a) What is meant by the term *social divisions*?

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(b) Describe **two** examples of gender socialisation.

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5 Opportunities for social mobility are available to all individuals in modern industrial societies. However, people from working class backgrounds and some ethnic minority groups have greater difficulty in improving their social position.

(a) What is meant by the term *social mobility*?

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(b) Describe **two** reasons why unskilled workers may find it hard to achieve upward social mobility.

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Section D: Power and Authority

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6 Sociologists view power and authority as important concepts when studying political systems.

(a) What is meant by the term *power*?

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(b) Describe **two** reasons why people accept the authority of the government in democratic societies.

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(d) How far is government controlled by elite groups in democratic societies?

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7 In democratic societies, pressure groups and the mass media play an important role in the political process.

(a) What is meant by the term *political process*?

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(b) Describe **two** features of a pressure group.

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