



## Section A

Answer Question 1.

- 1 There are four main types of interview used in sociological research: group, structured, unstructured and *semi-structured interview*. Of these, structured interviews are used mainly to collect quantitative data while the others are used mainly to collect qualitative data. Group interviews are a method where a researcher interviews people together in a group setting. The respondents in these interviews may or may not have common characteristics depending upon the topic that is being researched. In the interview, the researcher will ask a series of questions and attempt to generate discussion between group members. A sociologist using this method will listen to what respondents say and observe their behaviour. The data produced is therefore detailed and in-depth.

Qualitative data is considered to be high in validity. This is one of the reasons why interpretivists favour the use of research methods that collect qualitative data. Positivists, on the other hand, are critical of interviews that collect qualitative data and identify a number of theoretical problems with their use.

- (a) What is meant by the term *semi-structured interview*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** limitations of using a group interview. [4]
- (c) Explain why a sociologist might use a group interview as a method of research. [8]
- (d) Assess positivist arguments against the use of interview methods that collect qualitative data. [11]

## Section B

Answer **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

- 2 'Interactionists offer the best understanding of the relationship between the individual and society.' Explain and assess this view. [25]
- 3 'Value consensus is the basis of social order in modern industrial societies.' Explain and assess this view. [25]



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