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UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

CANDIDATE NAME	

CENTRE NUMBER						CANDIDATE NUMBER				

SOCIOLOGY **0495/11**

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.

Answer Question 1 and **three** questions from Sections **B** to **D**.
You may not need all the answer lines for your answer.
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.

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Section A: Research Methods

For Examiner's Use

1 Participant observation is a research strategy that aims to gain a close and detailed understanding of a particular area of study. This method usually involves the study of a small group where the researcher becomes involved with the people in their natural environment. This research may be covert or overt. Covert participant observation is regarded as less ethically acceptable than overt observation.

With both types of participant observation, there is a risk that the researcher may identify too closely with the group they are studying and stop viewing their behaviour with objectivity. Because this research approach produces qualitative data, it is difficult to compare one piece of research with another. The researcher may also experience difficulties in recording accurately what they observe when studying the group.

Non-Participant observation is another method used to study group activities. It is seen as more ethically acceptable than covert participant observation. However, this method has a number of limitations which may damage the validity of the study. Sociologists also use various forms of interviews to gain detailed information, but these may lack the detail that can be achieved using participant observation.

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

(i) covert observation

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(ii) objectivity

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(iii) qualitative data

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(b) Describe **one** strength and **one** limitation of *non-participant* observation.

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(c) Describe **two** reasons why a researcher carrying out participant observation may find it difficult to be accepted by the study group.

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(d) Describe **two** difficulties in carrying out *covert* participant observation.

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(e) Describe **two** reasons why the participant observer may find it difficult to record their observations accurately when studying the group.

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(f) Describe **two** strengths and **two** limitations of using interviews in sociological research.

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Section B: Culture and Socialisation

For Examiner's Use

2 Sociologists claim that it is through the process of socialisation that people come to learn the norms and values of society.

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

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(b) Distinguish between *primary* and *secondary* socialisation.

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(c) Explain how young children learn to interact effectively with other people.

For Examiner's Use

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(d) How far are sociologists correct in claiming that the way people behave is mainly the result of socialisation?

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For Examiner's Use

3 An individual's roles change as they leave childhood and experience adulthood.

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

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(b) Describe **two** features of childhood.

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(c) Explain how the roles of childhood and adulthood differ.

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For Examiner's Use

(d) How far do the experiences of childhood differ between societies?

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Section C: Social Stratification and Inequality

For Examiner's Use

4 In modern industrial societies there are more opportunities for individuals to improve their life chances.

(a) What is meant by the term *life chances*?

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(b) Describe **two** ways through which an individual can improve their life chances.

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(c) Explain why people in traditional societies are likely to have fewer life chances.

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For Examiner's Use

(d) How far do women now have equal opportunities with men in modern industrial societies?

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For Examiner's Use

5 Poverty can be described as absolute or relative. Relative poverty appears to be a greater problem than absolute poverty in modern industrial societies.

(a) What is meant by the term *absolute poverty*?

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(b) Describe **two** examples of relative poverty.

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(c) Explain some of the ways in which people can escape poverty.

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(d) How far is poverty caused by the life style of the individual?

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Section D: Power and Authority

For Examiner's Use

6 Political parties are an important feature of democratic societies.

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

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(b) Describe **two** features of a political party.

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(c) Explain why political parties are important in democratic societies.

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(d) To what extent are modern industrial societies democratic?

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7 At election times opinion polls are used by the mass media to measure the views of the public on political issues. There is disagreement about how far the results of opinion polls influence the political process.

(a) What is meant by the term *opinion polls*?

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(b) Describe **two** ways in which opinion polls may influence governments.

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(c) Explain how the mass media may influence the views of the public about the government.

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(d) To what extent do opinion polls accurately reflect the views of the public about political issues?

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