

Section A: Research Methods

Interviewing is a common technique used by sociologists to gather data. Interviews may be structured, semi-structured, or unstructured. They usually take place on a one-to-one basis between the researcher and the respondent, but group interviews are an alternative. Those sociologists who prefer to collect quantitative data are more likely to use structured interviews. With this type of interview the researcher takes special care to draw up a carefully worded set of questions. They also try to standardise their performance as interviewers so that they behave in exactly the same way with each respondent. The purpose of all this care is to make sure that nothing 'irrelevant' in the wording of the questions or the performance of the interviewer will influence the answers. In this way it is hoped that the data collected will be free from any researcher bias.

- 1 (a) In sociological research, what is meant by the following terms:
- (i) quantitative data [2]
 - (ii) respondent [2]
 - (iii) researcher bias? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** ways in which unstructured interviews differ from structured interviews. [4]
- (c) Describe **two** reasons why it may be difficult for an interviewer to behave in exactly the same way with each respondent. [4]
- (d) Describe **two** advantages of using group interviews in sociological research. [4]
- (e) Describe **two** ways in which the personal characteristics of the interviewer may influence the answers given by the respondent. [4]
- (f) Describe **two** strengths and **two** limitations of structured interviews. [8]

Section B: Culture and Socialisation

- 2 Sociologists are critical of attempts to explain social behaviour in terms of instinct or 'nature'. They suggest that it is through interaction with other people that we learn how we are expected to behave in society.
- (a) What is meant by the term *interaction*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** ways in which an infant learns how to play with other children. [4]
- (c) Explain why sociologists are critical of attempts to explain social behaviour in terms of instinct or 'nature'. [6]
- (d) To what extent do social influences constrain people's behaviour? [8]
- 3 Social control in traditional societies is achieved mainly through informal processes. In modern industrial societies there is a greater need for formal social controls, mainly in the form of the police and the legal system.
- (a) What is meant by the term *social control*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** sources of informal social control. [4]
- (c) Explain why there is a greater need for formal social controls in modern industrial societies. [6]
- (d) To what extent do some groups benefit more than others from the existence of social control? [8]

Section C: Social Stratification

- 4 The system of stratification based on social class is a product of industrial capitalism. Other systems of stratification existed in earlier societies.
- (a) What is meant by the term *stratification*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** other forms of stratification apart from that based on social class. [4]
- (c) Explain the Marxist view that the working class are exploited under capitalism. [6]
- (d) To what extent have social class divisions changed since the nineteenth century? [8]
- 5 Much of the discrimination that people from ethnic minority groups experience is based on the prejudice that they are seen as 'not properly members' of the country in which they live.
- (a) What is meant by the term *ethnic minority*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** forms of discrimination that people from ethnic minority groups may experience. [4]
- (c) Explain why people from ethnic minority groups may be viewed as 'not properly members' of the country in which they live. [6]
- (d) How far is the experience of discrimination the same for all ethnic minority groups? [8]

Section D: Power and Authority

- 6 Some states exclude large proportions of their populations from political influence and they may use violence to suppress opposition to the ruling elite.
- (a) What is meant by the term *ruling elite*? [2]
 - (b) Describe **two** ways in which violence may be used by the state to suppress political opposition. [4]
 - (c) Explain why some states exclude large proportions of their populations from political influence. [6]
 - (d) How far is it true that even in democratic political systems the state is controlled by elite groups? [8]
- 7 Elections are the main means through which people are able to exercise political influence in modern industrial societies.
- (a) What is meant by the term *political influence*? [2]
 - (b) Describe **two** ways in which people may take part in political activity other than by voting in elections. [4]
 - (c) Explain why elections are an important part of a democratic political system. [6]
 - (d) To what extent are elections an effective way of ensuring that the government remains accountable to the people in democratic political systems? [8]

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