



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

**SOCIOLOGY**

**2251/21**

Paper 2

**May/June 2010**

**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 ink.

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 The functions performed by the family have changed as societies have modernised.
- (a) What is meant by the term *functions*? [2]
  - (b) Describe **two** functions that families perform in traditional societies. [4]
  - (c) Explain how family functions have changed as societies have modernised. [6]
  - (d) Assess the evidence that the family is far less important than it used to be in many societies. [8]
- 2 The nuclear family has been described as the ideal type of family in modern industrial societies, however many other types of family exist alongside each other.
- (a) What is meant by the term *nuclear family*? [2]
  - (b) Describe **two** other types of family unit. [4]
  - (c) Explain how the roles of children within the family have changed in modern industrial societies. [6]
  - (d) To what extent is the nuclear family the ideal type of family structure in modern industrial societies? [8]

**Section B: Education**

- 3 Both the formal curriculum and the hidden curriculum play an important part in what pupils learn at school.
- (a) What is meant by the term *formal curriculum*? [2]
  - (b) Describe **two** examples of how the hidden curriculum may reinforce gender roles in schools. [4]
  - (c) Explain how the hidden curriculum helps to prepare young people for work. [6]
  - (d) How far, and in what ways, does home background affect a pupil's educational achievement? [8]

- 4 Despite equal opportunities in education, stereotyping still exists to some extent in schools in relation to social class, gender and ethnicity.
- (a) What is meant by the term *stereotyping*? [2]
  - (b) Describe **two** ways in which a pupil's social class may influence educational achievement. [4]
  - (c) Explain the measures that schools can take to help improve the performance of all pupils regardless of social class, gender and ethnicity. [6]
  - (d) Assess how far teachers and schools may influence the educational performance of ethnic minorities. [8]

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

- 5 Official crime statistics may be misleading and always need careful interpretation.
- (a) What is meant by the term *official crime statistics*? [2]
  - (b) Describe **two** reasons why white-collar crime often goes unrecorded by the police. [4]
  - (c) Explain why some people fail to report crime to the police. [6]
  - (d) How far, and in what ways, may the official crime statistics be influenced by the activities of the police? [8]
- 6 Formal social control plays a key role in maintaining order in modern industrial societies.
- (a) What is meant by the term *formal social control*? [2]
  - (b) Describe **two** examples of deviant behaviour. [4]
  - (c) Explain why some groups in society are more likely to have the power to label others as deviant. [6]
  - (d) How far, and in what ways, may the media influence the level of crime in society? [8]

**Section D: The Mass Media**

- 7 It is sometimes claimed that those who own the mass media have too much power to influence the behaviour of groups and individuals.
- (a) What is meant by the term *mass media*? [2]
  - (b) Describe **two** trends in the ownership and control of the mass media in modern industrial societies. [4]
  - (c) Explain the ways in which ownership of the mass media may be a source of power in society. [6]
  - (d) To what extent are the owners of the mass media able to influence the behaviour of other groups and individuals in society? [8]
- 8 Advertising may help to shape the way people view themselves and the lifestyle choices they make.
- (a) What is meant by the term *advertising*? [2]
  - (b) Describe **two** examples of how the lifestyle choices people make may be influenced by advertising. [4]
  - (c) Explain the purpose of advertising. [6]
  - (d) What other factors, apart from advertising, may influence the lifestyle choices people make? [8]

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