



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

CANDIDATE  
NAME

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**SOCIOLOGY**

**2251/23**

Paper 2

**October/November 2012**

**1 hour 45 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 any **three** questions.

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

This document consists of **33** printed pages and **3** blank pages.



**Section A: Family**

For  
Examiner's  
Use

**1** Official statistics provide a useful insight into the patterns of marriage and divorce in modern industrial societies.

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

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..... [2]

**(b)** Describe **two** reasons why the marriage rate has fallen in recent years.

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..... [4]



(d) Assess the consequences for individuals and society of a rising divorce rate.

For  
Examiner's  
Use

A large area of the page is filled with horizontal dotted lines, providing a space for the student to write their answer to the question.



2 Functionalists argue that the family plays a major role in primary socialisation.

(a) What is meant by the term *primary socialisation*?

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..... [2]

(b) Describe **two** ways, apart from primary socialisation, in which families contribute to the well-being of their members.

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*For  
Examiner's  
Use*

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**Section B: Education**

For  
Examiner's  
Use

**3** While home factors may influence a pupil's educational achievement, school factors may be a more important influence.

**(a)** What is meant by the term *home factors*?

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..... [2]

**(b)** Describe **two** school factors that may influence educational achievement.

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..... [4]







4 In modern industrial societies some parents prefer to send their children to schools which operate outside of the state school system. These are known as independent or private schools.

(a) What is meant by the *state school system*?

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..... [2]

(b) Describe **two** advantages of independent schools.

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*For  
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**Section C: Crime, Deviance and Social Control**

For  
Examiner's  
Use

5 There are three main approaches to the study of crime: biological, psychological and sociological explanations.

(a) What is meant by the term *biological explanations*?

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.....  
..... [2]

(b) Describe **two** psychological explanations for crime.

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(d) Assess the view that relative deprivation is the main cause of criminal behaviour.

*For  
Examiner's  
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6 Sociologists argue that self-report studies and victim surveys provide a more accurate view of the extent of crime than official crime statistics.

(a) What is meant by the term *self-report studies*?

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..... [2]

(b) Describe **two** problems that may arise when carrying out victim surveys.

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**Section D: The Mass Media**

For  
Examiner's  
Use

7 The mass media influences the political process in a number of ways including through their contribution to political socialisation. The mass media is often the main source of information to the public about politics and politicians.

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

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.....  
.....  
..... [2]

(b) Describe **two** ways in which the mass media can influence the results of a general election.

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..... [4]







8 The mass media often use stereotypes that are gender specific. These stereotypes may help to maintain gender inequalities.

(a) What is meant by the term *gender specific*?

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.....  
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..... [2]

(b) Describe **two** male gender stereotypes that may be used by the mass media.

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