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UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

SOCIOLOGY **0495/01**

Paper 1 **October/November 2008**

2 hours 30 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

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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 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**.
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.

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Section A: Research Methods

Sociologists who wish to collect qualitative data often use unstructured or informal interviews. This type of interview usually consists of a list of topics the interviewer wishes to discuss. The interviewer will ask a number of open-ended questions which may stimulate discussions or further questions. The interviewer will carry out the interview in a relaxed manner in order to put the interviewee at ease.

This form of interview is said to have greater validity than more formal interviews as it can produce data that has greater depth. However, critics of this approach say that it can lead to interviewer bias. Observation is another approach used by sociologists to collect qualitative data.

1 **(a)** In sociological research what is meant by the terms:

(i) unstructured interviews [2]

(ii) validity [2]

(iii) interviewer bias. [2]

(b) Describe **two** problems that can occur when conducting **unstructured** interviews. [4]

(c) Describe **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of using observation as a means of collecting data. [4]

(d) Suggest **two** advantages of using unstructured interviews in sociological research. [4]

(e) **(i)** Distinguish between *covert* and *overt* forms of observation. [2]

(ii) Distinguish between *participant* and *non-participant* forms of observation. [2]

(f) Identify and explain **two** advantages and **two** disadvantages of using covert **participant** observation in sociological research. [8]

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Section B: Culture and Socialisation

2 Children as they grow up in a particular society learn its norms and values.

(a) What is meant by the term *norms*? [2]

(b) Describe **two** ways children learn to interact with other members of society. [4]

(c) Explain why childhood is seen as a distinct stage in life in modern industrial societies. [6]

(d) To what extent is human behaviour shaped by socialisation? [8]

3 People living in a society may have a very different set of customs and beliefs to those living in other societies. Such cultural differences illustrate how societies develop their own unique cultures.

(a) What is meant by the term *cultural differences*? [2]

(b) Describe **two** features of a society's culture. [4]

(c) Explain how the elderly are likely to be treated differently in a modern industrial society compared to more traditional societies. [6]

(d) To what extent do people in the same culture share the same values? [8]

Section C: Social Stratification and Inequality

4 A person's social class is influenced by a number of factors. One of the most important influences is occupation.

(a) What is meant by the term *social class*? [2]

(b) Describe **two** ways a middle class background may affect a person's work opportunities. [4]

(c) Explain why middle class occupations, such as doctors and lawyers, tend to earn more than working class occupations in modern industrial societies. [6]

(d) To what extent does social class background still influence an individual's opportunities in life? [8]

5 Despite the existence of equal rights legislation (laws) in modern industrial societies, many ethnic minorities still experience discrimination in areas such as employment and housing.

(a) What is meant by the term *discrimination*? [2]

(b) Describe **two** types of discrimination ethnic minorities may experience at work. [4]

(c) Explain why ethnic minorities may have experienced less discrimination in modern industrial societies in recent years. [6]

(d) To what extent do ethnic minorities remain disadvantaged throughout their lives? [8]

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Section D: Power and Authority

6 In many societies elite groups hold political power.

(a) What does the term *elite groups* mean? [2]

(b) Describe **two** features of a dictatorship. [4]

(c) Explain how an individual can influence government decision-making in democratic societies. [6]

(d) To what extent do elite groups dominate government decision-making in democratic societies? [8]

7 The mass media appear to have a great deal of influence in democratic elections through news reporting and opinion polls.

(a) What is meant by the term *democratic election*? [2]

(b) Describe **two** factors other than the mass media that may influence the result of elections. [4]

(c) Explain how news reporting and opinion polls may influence the way people vote at election times. [6]

(d) To what extent does a person's social class affect their voting behaviour? [8]

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