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UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

SOCIOLOGY **0495/01**

Paper 1 **October/November 2009**

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.

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Section A: Research Methods

Observational research aims to gain a close and detailed understanding of a particular area of study, usually a small group, through the researcher studying the group in their natural environment. This form of study can be either participant or non-participant.

Observational studies can also be conducted in a covert or overt way. In the case of overt observation the researchers will reveal their identity to the group they are studying; in covert observation they will remain hidden.

Observational studies tend to produce qualitative rather than quantitative data. Although the studies may produce in-depth data, they can lack reliability and there may be difficulties in recording the observations.

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

(i) participant observation [2]

(ii) quantitative data [2]

(iii) reliability. [2]

(b) Describe the difference between *participant* and *non-participant* observation. [4]

(c) Describe **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage in carrying out *overt* observation. [4]

(d) Describe **two** problems in carrying out *covert* observation. [4]

(e) Describe **two** reasons why *participant observers* may find it difficult to record their observations accurately when studying the group. [4]

(f) Describe **two** strengths and **two** limitations of *qualitative* data in sociological research. [8]

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Section B: Culture and Socialisation

2 Many sociologists believe that people are socialised into the norms and values of society, rather than inheriting them.

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

(b) Describe **two** ways that people learn the norms and values of society. [4]

(c) Explain why sociologists think socialisation is more important than instinct in shaping social behaviour. [6]

(d) To what extent do people who live within a culture share the same norms and values? [8]

3 It has been claimed that children generally experience more social control than adults.

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

(b) Describe **two** ways children are treated differently compared to adults in modern industrial societies. [4]

(c) Explain how children are controlled in modern industrial societies. [6]

(d) To what extent does the experience of childhood vary according to factors such as social class, gender and culture? [8]

Section C: Social Stratification

4 Professional groups, such as doctors and lawyers, are often thought to have a higher social status compared to manual workers.

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

(b) Describe **two** characteristics of professional groups. [4]

(c) Explain why working class people often find it difficult to move into the middle class. [6]

(d) How far does a person's social class background continue to affect their life chances? [8]

5 Many sociologists believe that gender role socialisation is different for boys and girls and this has major effects on their life chances.

(a) What is meant by *gender role socialisation*? [2]

(b) Describe **two** ways that boys may be treated differently compared to girls in the family. [4]

(c) Explain how gender socialisation in childhood may affect women's employment opportunities. [6]

(d) How far have women's life chances improved in recent years? [8]

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Section D: Power and Authority

6 In democracies pressure groups can be an important means of influencing government.

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

(b) Describe **two** ways in which pressure groups try to influence governments. [4]

(c) Explain how individuals can influence governments in a democracy. [6]

(d) Marxists claim that it is the ruling class that holds power in modern industrial societies. How far is this claim true? [8]

7 The media may play a role in political socialisation but sociologists also believe other influences have an effect on people's political attitudes.

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

(b) Describe **two** ways that the media might influence a person's political views. [4]

(c) Explain how a person's social background may influence their political views. [6]

(d) How far have the factors that affect voting behaviour changed in recent years? [8]

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