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Cambridge IGCSE™

SOCIOLOGY **0495/12**

Paper 1 Research Methods, Identity and Inequality **October/November 2025**

2 hours

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

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INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **two** questions in total:
  - Answer Question 1.
  - Answer **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 80.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].

This document has **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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Answer Question 1.

Research methods

1 Read Source A and then answer the questions below.

Source A
Triangulation is an approach that combines different research methods in one sociological study.

An example of triangulation is a 2017 study of women's experiences of paid work. The study was done by three male researchers from a university in Ghana. Firstly, the researchers sent online questionnaires to 219 women, aged 35-55, who worked in education, medicine or law. The aim of the questionnaire was to gain quantitative data on the women's salaries, opportunities for promotion and experiences of discrimination. The data from the questionnaires was then analysed and patterns and trends in the women's experiences of work were identified.

The second research method in the study was unstructured interviews to gather qualitative data. Fifteen of the women from the original sample were interviewed. Access to the fifteen women was easy as all of the women worked in the university in Ghana and many knew the three male researchers.

The researchers concluded that most women had no experience of discrimination at work and were treated the same as male colleagues in terms of pay and promotion.

(a) **(i)** From **Source A**, identify the **two** research methods that were used in the study. [2]

(ii) Using information in **Source A**, explain **two** reasons why triangulation was a useful approach for studying women's experiences of paid work. [4]

(iii) Using information in **Source A**, explain **three** problems with the research for studying women's experiences of paid work. [6]

(b) Give **two** examples of secondary evidence. [2]

(c) Explain **one** strength and **one** limitation of non-participant observation. [4]

(d) Evaluate the view that random sampling is the best sampling technique to use in sociological research.

Your answer should include:

- at least **two** arguments for and **two** arguments against
- a conclusion.

[10]

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(e) Explain the research methods and evidence that you would choose to investigate why people migrate from one country to another. Give reasons for your choices.

Your answer should include:

- **two** primary methods with relevant sampling
- **one** source of secondary evidence. [12]

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Answer **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

Identity: self and society

2 **(a)** Define the term:

(i) role [2]

(ii) digital surveillance. [2]

(b) Give **two** examples of youth sub-cultures. [2]

(c) Explain **three** ways identity can be positively affected by global culture. [6]

(d) Explain **three** ways individuals may create an online digital self. [6]

(e) Discuss the view that society is a social construction.

Your answer should include:

- at least **three** developed points with evidence. [8]

(f) Evaluate the view that the family is the most effective agency of socialisation.

Your answer should include:

- at least **three** arguments for and **three** arguments against
- a conclusion. [14]

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Social stratification and inequality

3 **(a)** Define the term:

(i) caste system [2]

(ii) universal education. [2]

(b) State **two** forms of wealth. [2]

(c) Explain **three** ways people can be affected by a lack of power. [6]

(d) Explain **three** feminist criticisms of equality legislation. [6]

(e) Discuss the view that societies are becoming more culturally diverse.

Your answer should include:

- at least **three** developed points with evidence. [8]

(f) Evaluate the view that the welfare state has failed to reduce poverty.

Your answer should include:

- at least **three** arguments for and **three** arguments against
- a conclusion. [14]

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