



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

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**SOCIOLOGY**

**2251/13**

Paper 1

**October/November 2011**

**2 hours 30 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.

Answer Question 1 and **three** questions from Sections **B** to **D**.

You may not need all the answer lines for your answer.

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

This document consists of **22** printed pages and **2** blank pages.



**Section A: Research Methods**

*For  
Examiner's  
Use*

- 1** Sociologists who wish to collect qualitative data will use unstructured interviews and observational studies. Qualitative research methods are seen as having high validity. However, qualitative research methods have a number of limitations. For example, the problem of interviewer bias is likely to occur with unstructured interviews. Observational studies may also have a number of problems such as the difficulty in using these studies to make generalisations.

Positivist sociologists favour a scientific approach to research. They use quantitative methods to collect statistical data. Quantitative research methods are high in reliability. Sometimes sociologists use a mix of quantitative and qualitative research methods as a way of giving their studies greater credibility.

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

**(i)** unstructured interviews

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..... [2]

**(ii)** interviewer bias

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..... [2]

**(iii)** generalisations

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..... [2]

(b) Describe **two** limitations in using unstructured interviews in sociological research.

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..... [4]

(c) Describe **two** reasons why a sociologist might use unstructured interviews in sociological research.

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(d) Distinguish between *reliability* and *validity*.

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(e) Describe **two** difficulties in recording data when carrying out *covert* observation.

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(f) Describe **two** strengths and **two** limitations of using *non-participant* observation in sociological research.

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**Section B: Culture and Socialisation**

For  
Examiner's  
Use

**2** Sociologists believe socialisation is very important in shaping a person's social development. The process of socialisation is supported by the use of sanctions and rewards.

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

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.....[2]

**(b)** Describe **two** sanctions that may be used to encourage social conformity.

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3 Sociologists believe a person's gender roles are learned during their childhood and early adulthood. Gender is an important influence on a person's social identity.

(a) What is meant by the term *social identity*?

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..... [2]

(b) Describe **two** ways in which individuals learn their gender roles.

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**Section C: Social Stratification and Inequality**

For  
Examiner's  
Use

4 Absolute poverty is a greater problem in traditional societies. People in modern industrial societies are more likely to experience relative poverty.

(a) What is meant by the term *relative poverty*?

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.....[2]

(b) Describe **two** examples of absolute poverty.

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5 In modern industrial societies social class is an important form of stratification. Sociologists use a person's occupation to identify their social class.

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

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..... [2]

(b) Describe **two** problems of using occupation to identify a person's social class.

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**Section D: Power and Authority**

For  
Examiner's  
Use

**6** Various forms of censorship are used in authoritarian regimes. However, in democratic societies people have more freedom of expression and the ability to influence their government.

**(a)** What is meant by the term *freedom of expression*?

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.....[2]

**(b)** Describe **two** ways in which censorship can be carried out.

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7 The mass media play an important role in setting the political agenda in democratic societies. Political parties have an equally important role in shaping public opinion.

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

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..... [2]

(b) Describe **two** ways in which the mass media may influence political discussion.

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