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Cambridge
O Level

Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge Ordinary Level

SOCIOLOGY **2251/12**

Paper 1 **October/November 2015**

2 hours (including 15 minutes' reading time)

No Additional Materials are required.

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READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

An answer booklet is provided inside this question paper. You should follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

Answer Question 1 and **one** question from Sections **B** or **C**.
The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.

This document consists of **3** printed pages, **1** blank page and **1** insert.

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Section A: Theory and methods

Answer Question 1.

1 Source A

The Glasgow media group's work focuses on developing methods of researching the media. In 'Bad News for Refugees' (2013) they describe part of their research:

'We spoke with seven journalists from the BBC and other news outlets, including tabloid and broadsheet newspapers. Their views were given in confidence. A journalist from one tabloid spoke of the demonisation (negative stereotyping) of asylum seekers, migrants and refugees and how they were consistently treated as a single negative group of people. Some journalists spoke of problems with the accuracy of stories. A journalist checked the facts in stories appearing in the tabloids. It was found that the immigration figures used exaggerated the number of migrants who were living in the United Kingdom.'

Adapted from **'Bad News for Refugees'** Philo, Greg; Briant, Emma; Donald, Pauline. (2013)

(a) From Source A, identify the research method being used by the Glasgow Media Group. [2]

(b) Identify **two** topics in the news, apart from refugees, that could be researched using content analysis. [2]

(c) Using information from Source A, describe **two** ways in which media content can be biased. [4]

(d) Describe **two** strengths of using media content in sociological research. [4]

(e) Describe **two** strengths and **two** limitations of using historical documents in sociological research. [8]

(f) Explain why ethical issues may be a problem when carrying out sociological research. [10]

(g) To what extent does research based on media content lack validity? [15]

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

Section B: Culture, identity and socialisation

2 In some cultures childhood is regarded as a time of innocence when children should be protected. However, this view of childhood is not universal. 'Childhood' as an age group appears not to have existed in the past and in many parts of the modern world children as young as five years old take part in dangerous work. Sociologists have therefore concluded that 'childhood' is a social construction.

(a) What is meant by the term 'social construction'? [2]

(b) Describe **two** age groups apart from childhood. [4]

(c) Explain how experiences of old age differ between cultures. [6]

(d) Explain why childhood is viewed as 'a time of innocence' in some cultures. [8]

(e) To what extent is childhood a social construction? [15]

Section C: Social inequality

3 In the UK in 1999 the Macpherson report into the murder of black teenager Stephen Lawrence concluded that London's Metropolitan police force was guilty of 'institutional racism'.

(a) What is meant by the term 'institutional racism'? [2]

(b) Describe **two** ways in which young people may experience discrimination. [4]

(c) Explain how minority ethnic groups may experience prejudice. [6]

(d) Explain why majority groups can benefit from scapegoating minority groups. [8]

(e) To what extent is racism inevitable in all societies? [15]

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