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Cambridge
O Level

Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge Ordinary Level

SOCIOLOGY **2251/23**

Paper 2 **October/November 2015**

1 hour 45 minutes (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 **two** questions.
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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Answer **two** questions.

Section A: Family

1 Not everyone agrees that family life is a positive experience. Some sociologists, such as feminists, believe that there are negative aspects to family life and they talk about the 'dark side' of the family.

(a) What is meant by the term 'dark side of the family'? [2]

(b) Describe **two** ways in which family life may be negative. [4]

(c) Explain how divorce may affect family life. [6]

(d) Explain why the nuclear family is thought by many sociologists to be in decline. [8]

(e) To what extent does family life benefit males more than females? [15]

Section B: Education

2 Education is an important agency of socialisation and social control. Some sociologists believe that what happens in schools determines educational achievement, whilst others believe that home life has more influence.

(a) What is meant by the term 'educational achievement'? [2]

(b) Describe **two** ways that education acts as an agency of socialisation. [4]

(c) Explain how schools can use sanctions to control pupils. [6]

(d) Explain why education is thought to be an important part of a meritocratic society. [8]

(e) To what extent are school factors more influential than home factors in determining educational achievement? [15]

Section C: Crime, deviance and social control

3 Definitions of crime and deviance vary between societies. However, in all societies law enforcement agencies try to control the level of crime through strategies such as police targeting. These strategies are not always effective.

(a) What is meant by the term 'law enforcement agencies'? [2]

(b) Describe **two** examples of how definitions of deviance may vary between societies. [4]

(c) Explain how the pressure to be seen as masculine may lead some males to commit crime. [6]

(d) Explain why sociologists may question the accuracy of official crime statistics. [8]

(e) To what extent does a lack of opportunity to be successful in life explain why some social groups commit crime? [15]

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Section D: Media

4 Distortion is often used by the media in their reporting of social groups and issues. Some sociologists believe that the media have a huge influence over an individual's thoughts, values and behaviour. This means that how social groups are represented by the media may be very important in the socialisation process.

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

(b) Describe **two** examples of citizen journalism. [4]

(c) Explain how the media represent disabled people. [6]

(d) Explain why the media are used by political parties and politicians. [8]

(e) To what extent can the hypodermic-syringe model of media effects explain why some children commit acts of violence? [15]

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