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Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge International AS & A Level

SOCIOLOGY **9699/24**

Paper 2 Theory and Methods **May/June 2021**

1 hour 30 minutes



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **two** questions in total:
  - Section A: answer Question 1.
  - Section B: 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 50.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].

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Section A

Answer Question 1.

1 Some sociologists believe that their personal values should influence the choices they make about what to study and how to carry out their research. One reason that they hold this view is because they believe that the purpose of sociology is to be a force for good and that its findings should be used to help solve *social problems*. In other words, they believe the research conducted by sociologists should be used to improve society.

Positivists view the nature of research differently. They believe that the values of the sociologist should not influence the research process. Furthermore, they focus their research on sociological problems rather than social problems. Their concern is simply to uncover truths about the social world and not to change society. Positivists have less interest in how their research may be used by policy makers. However, their research may still be affected by how it is funded.

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

(b) Describe **two** ways that research might be affected by how it is funded. [4]

(c) Explain how the values of the sociologist may influence the research process. [8]

(d) Assess the view that the aim of sociological research should be to improve society. [11]

Section B

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

2 'Methods producing quantitative data are more useful than methods producing qualitative data.' Explain and assess this view. [25]

3 'There is no comparison to be made between sociology and the natural sciences.' Explain and assess this view. [25]

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