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UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education Advanced Subsidiary Level and Advanced Level

CANDIDATE NAME	

CENTRE NUMBER						CANDIDATE NUMBER				

3269618621

SOCIOLOGY **9699/23**

Paper 2 Principles and Methods 2 **October/November 2010**

1 hour 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 **two** questions.

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

This document consists of **10** printed pages and **2** blank pages.

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Answer **two** questions.

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1 Socialisation is the process by which individuals learn to become members of society, both by internalising the norms and values of society and also by learning to perform social roles. Social sanctions exist to encourage appropriate behaviour and to discourage inappropriate behaviour. The most intensive period of socialisation occurs within the family during childhood and is called primary socialisation. However, socialisation does not end with childhood, but continues throughout a person's life.

Sociologists emphasise the importance of socialisation, rather than biological instinct, as the key to understanding human behaviour. Functionalist sociologists also believe that social order is an important outcome of socialisation. In this view, socialisation teaches people to accept the same norms and values, which leads to social conformity and common agreement about what is acceptable behaviour. However, Marxist theorists reject the functionalist idea that social order is based on a *value consensus*. They consider that dominant groups exist in society who use their power to impose social rules on other, less powerful members of society.

(a) What is meant by the term *value consensus*?

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(b) Describe **two** social sanctions that may be used to discourage inappropriate behaviour.

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(c) Explain how children learn to internalise the norms and values of society.

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(d) Assess the Marxist theory of social order.

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2 Interviewing is a common method used in sociological research. An interview consists of a face-to-face question-and-answer session between interviewer and interviewee. The presence of the interviewer in this process creates many advantages, but it can lead to the problem of *researcher effect*. The three main types of interview are structured, semi-structured and unstructured.

Questionnaires are also widely used in sociological research. A questionnaire consists of a set of written questions that are either given to respondents to complete or are posted to them. This method allows a large number of questions to be asked to a wide group in a short period of time. Sociologists working within the positivist tradition favour the use of questionnaires because of the reliability of the method, and also the ability to identify trends and make generalisations from the data that is collected. However, from an interpretivist perspective, research based on questionnaires is said to lack validity.

(a) What is meant by the term *researcher effect*?

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(b) Describe **two** advantages of structured interviews.

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(c) Explain why interpretivists consider that research based on questionnaires lacks validity.

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(d) Assess the strengths and limitations of using *postal questionnaires* in sociological research.

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3 Social mobility studies measure the movement of individuals and groups between different positions within the system of stratification in a society. A distinction is made between short-range and long-range social mobility. In modern industrial societies, social mobility is mostly short range. Relatively few people experience long-range mobility involving movement from low to high status positions in society (or from high to low status positions).

Sociologists have identified two main types of social mobility. The first, intragenerational mobility, refers to social mobility within a single generation. It is measured by comparing the occupational status of an individual at two or more points in their working life. The other type, intergenerational mobility, refers to social mobility between generations. It is measured by comparing the occupational status of children with that of their parents.

High rates of social mobility are likely to occur in societies where status is based on achievement. In such societies, individuals are rewarded on the basis of their talent and hard work. The term 'meritocracy' has been used to describe the type of society in which rewards are distributed solely on the basis of ability and effort rather than *ascribed status*. The extent to which meritocracy exists in modern industrial societies is the subject of considerable debate among sociologists.

(a) What is meant by the term *ascribed status*?

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(b) Describe **two** ways in which a person can achieve upward social mobility.

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(c) Explain why social mobility rates are higher in some modern industrial societies than in others.

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(d) Assess the extent to which meritocracy exists in modern industrial societies.

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