

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

SOCIOLOGY

9699/02

Paper 2 Principles and Methods 2

May/June 2005

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.
Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.
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.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

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

Answer **two** questions.

- 1 Sociologists emphasise the importance of socialisation, rather than biological instinct, as key to understanding human behaviour. They point out that learning plays an essential part in creating social beings and that this takes place primarily through interaction with others. Individuals begin at an early age to become aware of the existence of others and to take this knowledge into account as they form their own identities. The family plays a crucial part in this process. For example, it is usually through interaction with other family members that a child first becomes aware of his or her gender identity and learns to recognise the norms and values that define how people of each gender are expected to behave in society.

- (a) What is meant by the term *socialisation*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** examples of gender socialisation within the family. [4]
- (c) Explain how a child learns to interact with other people. [8]
- (d) Assess the claim that sociologists have exaggerated the importance of socialisation in shaping human behaviour. [11]

- 2 An experiment is used typically to test a hypothesis by controlling a variable in order to discover which factor or factors are important in bringing about an effect. Experimental results are usually presented in numeric, quantifiable form. Correlations and causation can be identified, and the method is regarded as having a high degree of reliability.

To better control and isolate the different variables, experiments often take place in a laboratory. However, the use of laboratory research in sociology raises complex ethical and practical issues. Field experiments are a less problematical alternative. Rosenthal and Jacobson (1968) used the field experiment approach in a widely cited study examining the importance of teachers' attitudes on pupils' performance.

- (a) What do sociologists mean by the term *reliability*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** problems in using a laboratory setting to study people. [4]
- (c) Explain why a sociologist may choose to use experiments as a research method. [8]
- (d) Assess the claim that in sociological research quantitative data is superior to qualitative data. [11]

3 Equality of opportunity through the education system has long been seen as way of ensuring that the most able to rise to the top positions in society. A social system in which status is determined through ability and effort is known as a meritocracy. Such a system requires that inherited advantages and ascribed characteristics, such as age, class, gender, play no part in determining the distribution of people between different social positions. A meritocracy may also therefore be described as an 'open society', with no barriers to what a person can achieve other than his or her own ability and willingness to work hard. How far a meritocracy exists in any society today is a matter of debate. In order to measure the degree of 'openness' in society, sociologists often use studies of social mobility.

- (a) What is meant by the term *social mobility*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** ways in which a person may attain a higher position in society. [4]
- (c) Explain why females may have fewer opportunities than males to achieve upward social mobility. [8]
- (d) Assess the claim that ability and effort are key to achieving higher status positions in society. [11]

