www.PapaCambridge.com

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

CANDIDATE NAME	

CENTRE NUMBER						CANDIDATE NUMBER				

8515503485

SOCIOLOGY **9699/21**

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

1 hour 30 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

No additional materials 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.

© UCLES 2010

www.PapaCambridge.com

Answer **two** questions.

1 Sociologists who believe that society can be studied in a scientific way are known as positivists. They claim that it is possible to identify external variables determining human behaviour on the basis of which social laws can be formulated. Positivists believe that sociological research should be based on the methods and procedures of the natural sciences.

However, sociologists in the interpretivist tradition have criticised positivists for exaggerating the similarities between sociology and the natural sciences. Sociology has not achieved the same degree of agreement, certainty or ability to predict as the natural sciences. For example, sociologists cannot use laboratory experiments in the same way as natural scientists to collect data. This makes it harder for sociologists to separate and control variables in order to establish the causes of events.

Thomas Kuhn has questioned whether the natural sciences are objective and value free. Kuhn claims that all knowledge is *socially constructed* and he emphasises the importance of social interests in shaping the things that are believed about the world. Scientific discovery does not only occur through open-minded enquiry. Scientists have particular theoretical beliefs that do not just depend on evidence but are influenced by the interests and values of the scientific community.

(a) What is meant by the term *socially constructed*?

.....

.....

.....

..... [2]

(b) Describe **two** problems of using laboratory experiments in sociological research.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

..... [4]

www.PapaCambridge.com

(c) Explain why the claims of science to be objective and value free can be question

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

..... [8]

www.PapaCambridge.com

(d) Assess the interpretivist critique of positivism.

.... [11]

www.PapaCambridge.com

2 Participant observation is a widely used method of sociological research. It is part[illegible] favoured by sociologists in the interpretivist tradition. In participant observation the resea[illegible] joins the study group in order to observe people in their natural surroundings and to learn [illegible] see and feel things as they do. Participant observation studies are usually carried out over a long time period.

Gaining access to the group in order to begin the research can be a problem. Some researchers choose to reveal their identity to some or all of the people they are studying. This is known as overt participant observation. In covert participant observation the research is carried out secretly, with the researcher concealing their identity from the group.

Supporters of participant observation argue that it enables the sociologist to achieve a detailed understanding of the subject under study and that the data it produces is high in *validity*. However, critics identify a number of limitations with participant observation, especially the many ethical problems that are associated with covert observation.

(a) What is meant by the term *validity*?

.....

.....

.....

..... [2]

(b) Describe **two** difficulties for a sociologist in gaining access to a group they wish to study.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

..... [4]

www.PapaCambridge.com

(c) Explain why interpretivists favour the use of participant observation in socio[illegible] research.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....[8]

www.PapaCambridge.com

(d) Assess the strengths and limitations of *overt* participant observation.

.... [11]

www.PapaCambridge.com

3 Although women are a growing proportion of the paid labour force in most modern industrial societies, there is still gender inequality in terms of wages and job conditions. Women usually earn less than men and are more likely to be employed on a part-time or temporary basis only. Women are also likely to be found in lower-paid occupations such as clerical work, professional work in health, education and welfare, repetitive assembly work, cleaning and catering.

It also remains the case that the top positions in most workplaces are dominated by men. In 2008, women in the UK still constituted only around 2% of chief executives and company directors, 6% of all judges, and 16% of senior managers. The low representation of women in these top positions is seen by feminists as evidence of a 'glass ceiling' that women encounter as they progress in their careers and which very few go beyond. Some feminists believe that the inequality women face in the workplace reflects the *gender division of labour* within the home. They refer to studies showing that the majority of labour within the home is carried out by females.

(a) What is meant by the phrase *gender division of labour*?

.....

.....

.....

..... [2]

(b) Describe **two** reasons why women earn less than men.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

..... [4]

www.PapaCambridge.com

(c) Explain why women may find it difficult to reach the top positions in business a[illegible] professions.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

..... [8]

(d) Assess feminist explanations of gender inequality in the workplace.

.... [11]

www.PapaCambridge.com

BLANK PAGE

www.PapaCambridge.com

BLANK PAGE

www.PapaCambridge.com

Permission to reproduce items where third-party owned material protected by copyright is included has been sought and cleared where possible. Every reasonable effort has been made by the publisher (UCLES) to trace copyright holders, but if any items requiring clearance have unwittingly been included, the publisher will be pleased to make amends at the earliest possible opportunity.

University of Cambridge International Examinations is part of the Cambridge Assessment Group. Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of University of