



Cambridge International AS & A Level

SOCIOLOGY

9699/23

Paper 2 Theory and Methods

October/November 2020

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 [].

This document has 4 pages. Blank pages are indicated.

Section A

Answer Question 1.

- 1 Sociological research involves a series of stages, the first of which is to decide on an area or subject for research. Other stages involve choosing a research method and deciding whether or not to conduct a pilot study before the main research takes place. The choice of research method is likely to be influenced by both practical and theoretical factors.

For many sociologists, the purpose of research is to understand social problems, which are issues that are seen to threaten social stability. Using their research findings, these sociologists often recommend solutions to social problems in the form of *social policies*. In this way, they aim to use their research to change society for the better.

- (a) What is meant by the term *social policy*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** advantages of using a pilot study in sociological research. [4]
- (c) Explain why some sociological researchers aim to change society for the better. [8]
- (d) Assess the view that practical factors are the main influence on a sociologist's choice of research method. [11]

Section B

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

- 2 Explain and assess the positivist view that qualitative methods should not be used in sociological research. [25]
- 3 'The functionalist theory of socialisation is too deterministic.' Explain and assess this view. [25]

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