



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

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SOCIOLOGY

2251/01

Paper 1

May/June 2007

2 hours 30 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

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.

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 Question 1 and **three** questions from Sections **B** to **D**.

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.



This document consists of **4** printed pages.



Section A: Research Methods

Participant observation is a research strategy that aims to gain a close and detailed understanding of a particular area of study, usually a small group, through the researcher becoming involved with the people in their natural environment. This research may be covert or overt. Covert participant observation is regarded as less ethically acceptable than overt participant observation. It is also more dangerous.

With both types of participant observation there is a risk that the researcher may come to identify too closely with the group they are studying and stop viewing their behaviour objectively. This research approach is likely to produce qualitative rather than quantitative data. That makes it difficult to compare one piece of research with another. The researcher may also experience difficulties in recording accurately what they observe when studying the group.

- 1 (a) In sociological research, what is meant by the following terms:
- (i) natural environment [2]
 - (ii) objectivity [2]
 - (iii) qualitative data [2]
- (b) Distinguish between *overt* and *covert* participant observation. [4]
- (c) Describe **two** reasons why a researcher carrying out overt participant observation may find it difficult to be accepted by the people being studied. [4]
- (d) Describe **two** reasons why covert participant observation may be regarded as less ethically acceptable than overt participant observation. [4]
- (e) Describe **two** reasons why the participant observer may find it difficult to record their observations accurately when studying the group. [4]
- (f) Describe **two** strengths and **two** limitations of quantitative data in sociological research. [8]

Section B: Culture and Socialisation

- 2 Sociologists claim that the way people behave in society is mainly the result of socialisation.
- (a) What is meant by the term *socialisation*? [2]
- (b) Distinguish between primary **and** secondary socialisation. [4]
- (c) Explain how young children learn to interact effectively with other people. [6]
- (d) How far are sociologists correct in claiming that the way people behave in society is mainly the result of socialisation? [8]
- 3 What it means to be a child has varied across different historical periods. There are also cultural differences in conceptions of childhood.
- (a) What is meant by the term *cultural differences*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** examples that show how children were treated differently in earlier historical periods from the way they are treated today. [4]
- (c) In what ways does the treatment of elderly people differ between modern industrial societies and traditional societies? [6]
- (d) To what extent are children protected from the realities of the adult world in modern industrial societies? [8]

Section C: Social Stratification

- 4 Women on the whole earn less than men and are more likely to be employed on a part-time or temporary basis. Women are also less likely than men to achieve upward social mobility.
- (a) What is meant by the term *social mobility*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** reasons why women usually earn less than men. [4]
- (c) Explain why women are less likely than men to achieve upward social mobility. [6]
- (d) To what extent can laws against sex discrimination overcome sexual inequality in the workplace? [8]
- 5 Functionalists argue that in modern industrial societies people are rewarded on the basis of achievement rather than ascription.
- (a) What is meant by the term *ascription*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** examples of how a person may be rewarded for hard work in a modern industrial society. [4]
- (c) Explain why some occupations, such as doctors and engineers, are more highly rewarded than other occupations in modern industrial societies. [6]
- (d) To what extent is it true that people are rewarded on the basis of achievement rather than ascription in modern industrial societies? [8]

Section D: Power and Authority

- 6 Political parties and pressure groups make a significant contribution to the decision-making process in modern democracies.
- (a) What is meant by the term *pressure group*? [2]
 - (b) Describe **two** functions of political parties. [4]
 - (c) Explain how the decision-making process in modern democracies differs from that in authoritarian regimes. [6]
 - (d) To what extent can ordinary members of the public influence the decision-making process in modern democracies? [8]
- 7 Through means such as news reporting and opinion polls, the mass media have a lot of influence on voting behaviour in modern industrial societies.
- (a) What is meant by the term *opinion polls*? [2]
 - (b) Describe **two** influences on voting behaviour apart from the mass media. [4]
 - (c) Explain why news reporting may influence the way people vote. [6]
 - (d) To what extent does social class remain a major influence on voting behaviour in modern industrial societies? [8]