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UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

CANDIDATE NAME

CENTRE NUMBER

CANDIDATE NUMBER

4946221915

SOCIOLOGY **2251/13**

Paper 1 **October/November 2011**

2 hours 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 Question 1 and **three** questions from Sections **B** to **D**.
You may not need all the answer lines for your answer.
The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.

This document consists of **22** printed pages and **2** blank pages.

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Section A: Research Methods

1 Sociologists who wish to collect qualitative data will use unstructured interviews and observational studies. Qualitative research methods are seen as having high validity. However, qualitative research methods have a number of limitations. For example, the problem of interviewer bias is likely to occur with unstructured interviews. Observational studies may also have a number of problems such as the difficulty in using these studies to make generalisations.

Positivist sociologists favour a scientific approach to research. They use quantitative methods to collect statistical data. Quantitative research methods are high in reliability. Sometimes sociologists use a mix of quantitative and qualitative research methods as a way of giving their studies greater credibility.

(a) In sociological research, what is meant by the following terms:

(i) unstructured interviews

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(ii) interviewer bias

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(iii) generalisations

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(b) Describe **two** limitations in using unstructured interviews in sociological research.

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(c) Describe **two** reasons why a sociologist might use unstructured interviews in sociological research.

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(d) Distinguish between *reliability* and *validity*.

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(e) Describe **two** difficulties in recording data when carrying out *covert* observation.

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(f) Describe **two** strengths and **two** limitations of using *non-participant* observation in sociological research.

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Section B: Culture and Socialisation

2 Sociologists believe socialisation is very important in shaping a person's social developme
The process of socialisation is supported by the use of sanctions and rewards.

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

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(b) Describe **two** sanctions that may be used to encourage social conformity.

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(c) Explain how parents socialise their children.

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(d) How far do people from the same society share the same norms and values?

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3 Sociologists believe a person's gender roles are learned during their childhood and adulthood. Gender is an important influence on a person's social identity.

(a) What is meant by the term *social identity*?

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(b) Describe **two** ways in which individuals learn their gender roles.

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(c) Explain why young people usually conform to their gender roles.

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(d) How far have gender roles changed in recent years?

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Section C: Social Stratification and Inequality

4 Absolute poverty is a greater problem in traditional societies. People in modern industrial societies are more likely to experience relative poverty.

(a) What is meant by the term *relative poverty*?

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(b) Describe **two** examples of absolute poverty.

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(c) Explain why people remain in absolute poverty in some societies.

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(d) How far is poverty caused by factors outside of the individual's control?

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5 In modern industrial societies social class is an important form of stratification. Socio[illegible] use a person's occupation to identify their social class.

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

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(b) Describe **two** problems of using occupation to identify a person's social class.

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(c) Explain why white-collar workers often have better working conditions than other groups of workers.

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(d) How far does a person's social class background affect their life experiences?

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Section D: Power and Authority

6 Various forms of censorship are used in authoritarian regimes. However, in democratic societies people have more freedom of expression and the ability to influence their government.

(a) What is meant by the term *freedom of expression*?

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(b) Describe **two** ways in which censorship can be carried out.

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(c) Explain how power is maintained in authoritarian regimes.

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(d) How far do you agree with the pluralist view that power is widely distributed in dem
societies?

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7 The mass media play an important role in setting the political agenda in democratic so
Political parties have an equally important role in shaping public opinion.

(a) What is meant by the term *setting the political agenda*?

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(b) Describe **two** ways in which the mass media may influence political discussion.

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(c) Explain how political parties try to influence voters at election times.

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(d) How far do governments use the mass media to help maintain power?

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