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UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

CANDIDATE NAME

CENTRE NUMBER

CANDIDATE NUMBER

SOCIOLOGY **2251/13**

Paper 1 **October/November 2012**

2 hours 30 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

No Additional Materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name in the spaces provided.
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.
You may not need all the answer lines for your answer.
DO **NOT** WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

Answer Question 1 and **three** questions from Sections **B** to **D**.
The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.

This document consists of **28** printed pages.

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Section A: Research Methods

1 Many sociologists favour the positivist perspective. Positivists seek to identify patterns and *trends* in society. To achieve this, they use methods that are designed to gain *quantitative data*. Positivists believe that these methods allow the patterns and trends in society to be studied in an objective way. Positivists also prefer using large-scale surveys and for this they identify a *survey population*. They believe that generalisations can be made from these surveys that researchers can then test.

By contrast, sociologists who favour the interpretivist perspective prefer to collect information through smaller-scale studies. Interpretivist sociologists believe that this is the best way to understand the meanings and motives that influence the way individuals act in society. Participant observation is a method widely used in carrying out detailed, small-scale studies of group behaviour.

(a) What is meant by the following terms:

(i) Trends

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(ii) Quantitative data

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(iii) Survey population

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(b) Explain **two** reasons why positivists prefer using large-scale surveys.

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(c) Describe **two** different methods of carrying out a social survey.

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(d) Describe **one** strength and **one** limitation of positivist methods.

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(e) Describe **one** strength and **one** limitation of small-scale studies.

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(f) Describe **two** strengths and **two** limitations of participant observation.

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Section B: Culture and Socialisation

2 The experiences associated with childhood vary between societies. This has led sociologists to suggest that childhood is a social construction that reflects the customs and values of the society in which the child lives.

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

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(b) Describe **two** social factors that influence the experience of childhood.

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(c) Explain why experiences of childhood may differ between societies.

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(d) To what extent is the experience of childhood a social construction?

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3 Functionalists believe that value consensus is necessary for society to have social [illegible] They believe that the existence of social order will ensure that any social change wi[illegible] gradual and not disrupt society.

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

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(b) Describe **two** ways in which social order can be achieved, apart from through value consensus.

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(c) Explain how value consensus may ensure that social change will be gradual.

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(d) How far does value consensus benefit everyone in society?

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Section C: Social Stratification and Inequality

4 Stratification can take many forms, one of which is the gendered division of labour. Patriarchy has been identified as a cause of gender divisions.

(a) What is meant by the term *gendered division of labour*?

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(b) Describe **two** benefits of patriarchy for men.

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(c) Explain how females may be discriminated against in paid employment.

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(d) To what extent is patriarchy the main cause of gender divisions?

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5 An underclass exists in many societies. The market situation of those in the underclass is weak and this means that their life chances are limited.

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

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(b) Describe **two** reasons why the underclass may experience difficulties in gaining paid employment.

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(c) Explain the influence that market situation has on life chances.

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(d) How far can the underclass be blamed for their low social position?

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Section D: Power and Authority

6 Propaganda plays an important part in maintaining the power of authoritarian regimes. However, political protest still occurs in authoritarian regimes.

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

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(b) Describe **two** examples of political propaganda.

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(c) Explain how power is maintained in authoritarian regimes, apart from through the [illegible] propaganda.

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(d) To what extent can people in authoritarian regimes engage in political protest?

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7 Pressure groups have long been a feature of the political process in modern in[illegible] societies. Pressure groups are classed as promotional or defensive, although some ca[illegible] both.

(a) What is meant by the term *promotional pressure group*?

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(b) Describe **two** defensive pressure groups.

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(c) Explain why promotional pressure groups are often short-lived.

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(d) To what extent do pressure groups influence the outcome of the political process?

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