



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

CANDIDATE
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SOCIOLOGY

9699/22

Paper 2 Principles and Methods 2

May/June 2011

1 hour 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.

You may not need all the answer lines for your answer.

Answer **two** questions.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

This document consists of **13** printed pages and **3** blank pages.



Answer **two** questions.

For
Examiner's
Use

- 1 Sociologists claim that socialisation is more important than biological instinct in explaining human behaviour. They point out that learning plays an essential part in creating social beings and that this takes place primarily through interaction with others. Individuals begin at an early age to become aware of the existence of others and to take this knowledge into account as they form their own identities. The family plays a vital role in this process. For example, it is usually through interaction with other family members that a child first becomes aware of his or her gender identity and learns to recognise the norms and values that define how people of each gender are expected to behave in society.

A range of rewards and sanctions may be used to encourage social conformity. While bad behaviour is punished, good behaviour helps the individual to achieve the things that are seen as desirable in society, such as a good job or high *status*. Functionalists believe that socialisation, together with the system of rewards and sanctions that support it, is essential in achieving a peaceful and stable society. However, conflict theorists question the extent to which modern industrial societies are peaceful and stable.

- (a) What is meant by the term *status*?

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

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- 2 A participant observation study involves a researcher becoming a part of a group or community in order to achieve a detailed understanding of its way of life. Gaining access to the group in order to begin the research can be problematic. 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 his or her identity from the group.

Once access has been gained, the extent to which the participant observer might influence the group or activity being studied has to be considered. This is particularly a problem with overt participant observation, as people are likely to behave differently if they know they are being observed. But even if the researcher carries out the investigation secretly, the presence of another person may still affect the behaviour of the group. There is also a risk with participant observation that the researcher becomes so integrated in the group that they lose objectivity. This is known as 'going native'. The *validity* of the research findings would be reduced in this way. There are also a number of ethical and practical problems associated with participant observation studies.

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

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- (b) Describe **two** reasons why people may behave differently if they know they are being observed.

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3 Sociological studies have shown that *gender inequality* remains widespread, particularly in the area of employment. Women generally earn less than men and are more likely to be employed on a part-time or temporary basis only. Women are also concentrated into lower-paid occupations such as cleaning and catering, clerical work, shop assistants and repetitive assembly work. In the UK in 2008 women's full-time earnings were 79% of men's. This is an improvement on the situation in 1978 when the equivalent figure was 65%.

In addition, more women experience downward social mobility than upward, while for men the opposite is true. Men fill most of the top jobs in management and the professions. Hence, women are largely excluded from the positions in society that carry most power and this may be one of the reasons why they continue to experience inequality in employment and in the wider society.

(a) What is meant by the term *gender inequality*?

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(b) Describe **two** reasons why women are more likely than men to experience downward social mobility.

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(c) Explain why so few women occupy positions of power in management and the professions.

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(d) Assess the claim that it is the ruling class who benefit most from gender inequality in employment.

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