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

CANDIDATE NAME	

CENTRE NUMBER						CANDIDATE NUMBER					

SOCIOLOGY **9699/21**

Paper 2 Principles and Methods 2 **May/June 2012**

1 hour 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.
DO **NOT** WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

Answer **two** questions.

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 **13** printed pages and **3** blank pages.

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Answer **two** questions.

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1 There are a number of ways in which *social order* can be maintained, including through the use of force. However, the most effective way of ensuring that people within a society work together without disorder is for them to hold the same ideas about what is acceptable social behaviour. It is through the process of socialisation that people learn to behave in a broadly similar way. Functionalist sociologists emphasise the importance of socialisation in bringing about a consensus in society on what are the most important values and beliefs. However, it can be questioned just how effective socialisation is in preventing social conflict and unrest.

When people within a society behave as they are expected to behave it is known as conformity. Without a high degree of conformity there would be chaos in society. However, most societies will also have some people who do not conform to the expected patterns of behaviour. Sociologists use the term 'deviant' to refer to people who reject the dominant values and beliefs of the society. Deviants often behave in ways that are unacceptable to the majority within their society. A lot of deviant behaviour is confined to individuals, but deviants may also belong to groups known as 'deviant sub-cultures'. Most societies have developed ways of preventing deviant behaviour becoming a threat to social order.

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

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(b) Describe **two** examples of deviant behaviour.

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(c) Explain how societies prevent deviant behaviour becoming a threat to social order.

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(d) Assess the importance of the use of force in maintaining social order in modern industrial societies.

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2 Different types of interviews are used in sociological research. A basic distinction is made between structured, semi-structured and unstructured interviews. Most interviews are carried out with individuals, though sociologists may also interview groups of people they wish to study. For example, Paul Willis, in his study of education, interviewed several of the male pupils together. Group interviews usually take the form of small group discussions. They may be used together with other methods such as individual interviews.

People may feel more comfortable putting their views forward in a group setting. However, group interviews need to be managed carefully by the researcher, particularly when the topic is potentially sensitive. Group interviews have been used to study topics such as young people's experiences of being part of a gang or the experiences of people living in shared households. The *researcher effect* may be less likely to occur with group interviews than with individual interviews.

(a) What is meant by the term *researcher effect*?

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(b) Describe **two** reasons why people may feel more comfortable putting their views forward in a group setting.

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(c) Explain the advantages of using different types of interviews in the same research study.

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(d) Assess the strengths and limitations of group interviews.

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3 Sociologists have identified three main types of *social stratification*: caste, feudal and social class. The caste system is based on religious belief. The best example of caste is the Hindu caste system of India. Hindus belong to one of four main groups. Each group has a rigid status position and occupies a fixed place within the social structure. There are only very limited opportunities for social mobility within the caste system.

The crucial relationship in the feudal system is that between landlord and serf. Serfs are unfree peasants who are granted the right to work land in return for supplying labour and other services to a landlord. The serf is effectively owned by the landlord and the relationship is one of exploitation, with the serf forced to live in poverty because of the amount of unpaid work they are obliged to provide for the landlord. Feudalism preceded capitalism in Western Europe.

The economic changes brought about by the transition to capitalism also led to the emergence of social classes. Karl Marx distinguished between the working class and the capitalist class, which he termed the proletariat and the bourgeoisie. Marx believed that the relationship between the two classes was one of exploitation whereby the bourgeoisie profited from the surplus value created by the labour of the proletariat. However, there has been improvement in wages and job conditions since the nineteenth century and this has led some sociologists to argue that the working class is no longer exploited under capitalism today.

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

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(b) Describe **two** differences between feudalism and capitalism.

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(c) Explain the main obstacles to social mobility in modern industrial societies.

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(d) Assess the view that the working class is no longer exploited under capitalism today.

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