
SOCIOLOGY

9699/23

Paper 2 Theory and Methods

May/June 2014

1 hour 30 minutes

No Additional Materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

An answer booklet is provided inside this question paper. You should follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

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



This document consists of **2** printed pages, **2** blank pages and **1** insert.

Section A

Answer question 1.

- 1 Sociologists carry out research in order to collect data in a systematic and organised way. In doing so, they will opt to collect data that is quantitative or qualitative. However, it is increasingly common for researchers to adopt an approach that involves combining different types of method and which produces both types of data. Whatever approach is taken, the data collected provides the sociologist with evidence to help describe or explain the social world.

However, some sociologists believe that research should also contribute to making society a better place. In other words, they think that sociological research should seek to solve some of society's social problems and to therefore influence *social policy*. On the other hand, there are many other sociologists who reject this approach, arguing that all sociological enquiries should be devoted to explaining the social world rather than seeking to change it.

- (a) What is meant by the term *social policy*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** reasons why a researcher might use more than one type of method. [4]
- (c) Explain the difference between a social problem and a sociological problem. [8]
- (d) Assess the view that the main role of sociological research should be to help create a better society. [11]

Section B

Answer **either** question 2 **or** question 3.

- 2 'Only the Postmodernist perspective can explain the factors influencing social identity today.' Explain and assess this claim. [25]
- 3 Explain and assess the value of semi-structured interviews in sociological research. [25]

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