
SOCIOLOGY

9699/21

Paper 2 Theory and Methods

May/June 2019

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.

Some types of sociological research, such as large-scale surveys, can be costly and require considerable funding. For example, longitudinal studies are costly because they collect large amounts of quantitative data from a sample at regular intervals over many years. Cost can also be a concern with qualitative methods. For example, methods that produce *qualitative data*, such as participant observation, can take a long time to complete. This can be expensive for the researcher. One issue linked to research expense is that the study may be influenced by sources of funding.

Rather than opting for either a quantitative or qualitative approach, some sociologists use a mix of different methods to combine the approaches. For example, Parker studied illegal drug use among young people using questionnaires and unstructured interviews.

- 1 (a) What is meant by the term *qualitative data*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** ways in which a study may be influenced by sources of funding. [4]
- (c) Explain the strengths of using a longitudinal study. [8]
- (d) Assess the arguments for using a mix of different methods in sociological research. [11]

Section B

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

- 2 'It is a mistake to use a scientific approach in sociological research.' Explain and assess this view. [25]
- 3 'Modernist sociological theories are no longer useful in understanding the way in which societies work.' Explain and assess this postmodernist view. [25]

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