
SOCIOLOGY

9699/23

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.

- 1 Modernist theories like functionalism and Marxism emphasise the importance of social structures in shaping culture and group identities. Marxists argue that in modern industrial societies group identities are based primarily on social class, with each class having clearly identifiable cultural and social characteristics. Marxists also argue that culture is used by the ruling class to exercise power over the working class. One class difference in culture that sociologists have identified is that between popular culture and high culture.

Postmodernists reject these ideas, arguing they are outdated and irrelevant. Postmodernists believe that there have been significant changes in society over the last 50 years and that these changes, which include the process of *globalisation*, have transformed social identities. There are no longer clear and fixed social identities as individuals today are free to make choices about who they are regardless of their gender, age, ethnicity or class.

- (a) What is meant by the term *globalisation*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** characteristics of working-class identity. [4]
- (c) Explain the difference between popular culture and high culture. [8]
- (d) Assess the postmodernist view that social identities are no longer clear and fixed. [11]

Section B

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

- 2 'The data generated by participant observation is far more useful in sociological research than the data collected from questionnaires.' Explain and assess this view. [25]
- 3 'Socialisation is the most important factor in explaining human behaviour.' Explain and assess this view. [25]

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