



Cambridge International AS & A Level

SOCIOLOGY

9699/22

Paper 2 Theory and Methods

October/November 2020

1 hour 30 minutes



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **two** questions in total:
Section A: answer Question 1.
Section B: answer **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

This document has 4 pages. Blank pages are indicated.

Section A

Answer Question 1.

- 1 To understand society, positivists believe that sociology should follow the approach used in the natural sciences. They believe that the social world and the physical world are similar and so can be studied in the same way. Positivists also believe that it is possible to identify laws governing human behaviour, in much the same way that physicists and biologists identify laws governing the natural world. This can be achieved by using quantitative methods to establish *correlations* that may be used to test a hypothesis.

Interpretivists, however, have questioned whether it is appropriate to study society using the methods and procedures of the natural sciences. Interpretivists prefer methods of research that make it possible to enter the lives of the people they are studying and develop an understanding of their social relationships. As such, interpretivists are likely to favour qualitative methods such as unstructured interviews to conduct sociological research.

- (a) What is meant by the term *correlation*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** research methods favoured by positivists. [4]
- (c) Explain why interpretivists favour the use of unstructured interviews in sociological research. [8]
- (d) Assess arguments for the use of quantitative methods in sociological research. [11]

Section B

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

- 2 'Interactionists offer the best explanation of the relationship between the individual and society.' Explain and assess this view. [25]
- 3 Explain and assess the Marxist view that social order is maintained through ideology. [25]

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