
SOCIOLOGY

9699/23

Paper 2 Theory and Methods

October/November 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 Positivists use methods that are scientific. This is because they think that the best way to find out about social behaviour is to apply the methods of the natural sciences. For positivists, the aim of research is to gather data that may be used to confirm or reject a hypothesis. To do this they use methods which collect quantitative data. These include questionnaires, *structured interviews*, field experiments and laboratory experiments. For positivists, one advantage of these types of method is that they allow the researcher to ensure that their research is free from bias.

However, interpretivists think that people cannot be studied in the same way as objects in the natural world and for this reason they argue against the use of scientific methods in sociological research. Interpretivists also believe that data produced using methods like questionnaires lacks validity.

- (a) What is meant by the term *structured interview*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** features that make laboratory experiments scientific. [4]
- (c) Explain why it is difficult to ensure that sociological research is free from bias. [8]
- (d) Assess the interpretivist argument that data produced using questionnaires lacks validity. [11]

Section B

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

- 2 'All members of society benefit from the existence of social order.' Explain and assess this view. [25]
- 3 'Gender has little influence on social identity today.' Explain and assess this view. [25]

BLANK PAGE

Permission to reproduce items where third-party owned material protected by copyright is included has been sought and cleared where possible. Every reasonable effort has been made by the publisher (UCLES) to trace copyright holders, but if any items requiring clearance have unwittingly been included, the publisher will be pleased to make amends at the earliest possible opportunity.

To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced online in the Cambridge Assessment International Education Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download at www.cambridgeinternational.org after the live examination series.

Cambridge Assessment International Education is part of the Cambridge Assessment Group. Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which itself is a department of the University of Cambridge.