

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

**SOCIOLOGY**

**2251/01**

Paper 1

May/June 2005

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

**2 hours 30 minutes**

**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.  
Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.  
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.  
You may use a soft pencil for any diagrams, graphs or rough working.  
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer Question 1 and **three** questions from Sections **B** to **D**.  
At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.  
The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.

This document consists of **4** printed pages.



**Section A: Research Methods**

- 1 The survey is usually a large-scale method of research that involves collecting information from large numbers of people. While this information is typically gathered from questionnaires or interviews, a survey is not limited to any one technique of collecting information. In contrast to qualitative research, which provides a more in-depth study of social life, surveys tend to produce information that is less detailed but which can be used for making statistical generalisations over broad areas. Consistency is one of the strength of surveys, as the data collected can be easily coded and analysed and should not vary according to the person(s) collecting it.

Surveys involving the collection of information at one point in time are referred to as *cross-sectional surveys*; they provide a snapshot picture. *Longitudinal surveys* are used to study the behaviour of people over time and are therefore well suited to the analysis of change. In large-scale surveys, a sample is used whereby a group of people are selected as representative of a larger population.

(a) What is meant by the terms:

- (i) Questionnaire [2]
- (ii) Qualitative research [2]
- (iii) Reliability? [2]

(b) Describe **two** types of sample that may be used in sociological research as representative of a larger population. [4]

(c) Explain why the data collected using social surveys 'can be easily coded and analysed and should not vary according to the person(s) collecting it'. [4]

(d) Suggest **two** strengths and **two** limitations of longitudinal studies. [8]

(e) Suggest **two** advantages and **two** limitations of using questionnaires in sociological research. [8]

### Section B: Culture and Socialisation

- 2 Sociologists claim that socialisation, rather than instinct, is the major factor shaping human behaviour.
- (a) What is meant by the term *socialisation*? [2]
- (b) Distinguish between *primary* and *secondary* socialisation. [4]
- (c) Explain how a child learns to interact with other people. [6]
- (d) To what extent is socialisation, rather than instinct, the major factor shaping human behaviour? [8]
- 3 Social control plays a key part in maintaining order and stability in society.
- (a) What is meant by the term *social control*? [2]
- (b) Distinguish between *formal* and *informal* social control. [4]
- (c) Explain how social control is maintained in small-scale, tribal societies. [6]
- (d) Assess different sociological theories about which groups benefit from social control. [8]

### Section C: Social Stratification and Inequality

- 4 Occupation is the most widely used indicator of social class position.
- (a) What is meant by the term *social class*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** problems in using occupation to measure social class. [4]
- (c) Explain why the sharp division between manual and non-manual workers is now becoming out of date. [6]
- (d) How far is Marx's theory of social class still relevant today? [8]
- 5 Many groups may be discriminated against in employment, including ethnic minority groups, women, the young, the elderly, and the less able.
- (a) What is meant by the term *ethnic minority*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** types of discrimination in the workplace. [4]
- (c) Explain why women are often paid less than men. [6]
- (d) In what ways may a person's life chances be affected by the job he or she does? [8]

**Section D: Power and Authority**

- 6 The study of politics is concerned with the way that power is divided among people and how they use it.
- (a) What is meant by the term *power*? [2]
  - (b) Describe **two** types of political system. [4]
  - (c) Explain how power is divided in your society. [6]
  - (d) Discuss the strengths **and** limitations of the pluralist theory of power. [8]
- 7 It is claimed that political parties and pressure groups make an important contribution to the smooth running of democratic societies.
- (a) What is meant by the term *pressure group*? [2]
  - (b) Describe **two** functions of political parties. [4]
  - (c) Explain how pressure groups attempt to achieve their aims. [6]
  - (d) Assess the importance of pressure groups in a democracy. [8]

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