



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

CANDIDATE  
NAME

CENTRE  
NUMBER

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**SOCIOLOGY**

**2251/21**

Paper 2

**May/June 2011**

**1 hour 45 minutes**

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

No Additional Materials are required.

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**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

**DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.**

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black ink.

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 any **three** questions.

You may not need all the answer lines for your answer.

The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.

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This document consists of **25** printed pages and **3** blank pages.



**Section A: Family**

- 1 The divorce rate has risen in most modern industrial societies over the last fifty years. However, divorce is only one form of marital breakdown.

(a) What is meant by the term *divorce*?

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[2]

(b) Describe **two** other forms of marital breakdown apart from divorce.

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[4]

- (c) Explain why the divorce rate has risen in most modern industrial societies over the last fifty years.

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[6]

- (d) To what extent is the institution of marriage in decline in modern industrial societies?

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- 2 The traditional way of life usually gives rise to the extended family. Social change and economic development often lead to the break-up of the extended family.

- (a) What is meant by the term *extended family*?

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[2]

- (b) Describe **two** reasons why traditional ways of life are usually associated with the extended family.

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- (c) Explain why the break-up of the extended family often comes about as the result of economic development.

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- (d) To what extent does the decline of the extended family mean that family life has become less important in modern industrial societies?

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**Section B: Education**

- 3 Differences in hereditary intelligence may help to explain why some people do better at school than others. Schools not only help to develop intelligence, they also encourage pupils to conform to the rules of society.

(a) What is meant by the term *hereditary intelligence*?

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[2]

(b) Describe **two** social factors that may influence a person's level of intelligence.

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- (c) Explain why sociologists think that intelligence is only one factor influencing educational achievement.

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(d) How far do schools promote social conformity among pupils?

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- 4 Much importance is attached to the provision of formal education in modern industrial societies. However, sociologists hold different views about the functions of education.

(a) What is meant by the term *functions*?

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(b) Describe **two** functions of the education system in modern industrial societies.

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- (c) Explain how schools try to provide equality of opportunity for all pupils.

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- (d) How far have government educational policies helped to improve the educational performance of children from disadvantaged backgrounds?

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**Section C: Crime, Deviance and Social Control**

- 5 Official statistics suggest that crimes are committed mainly by young men between the ages of 14 and 25. Many young criminals come from disadvantaged groups.

(a) What is meant by the term *disadvantaged groups*?

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(b) Describe **two** examples of criminal activity associated with young men.

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- (c) Explain why young criminals may give up their criminal activity as they get older.

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- 6 In modern industrial societies there are a variety of styles of dress, types of music, special language and attitudes that distinguish young people from other age groups. This is known as youth culture.

(a) What is meant by the term *age group*?

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(b) Describe **two** influences on the way that young people view themselves.

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- (c) Explain the role of the advertising industry in the growth of youth culture.

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(d) How far does youth culture differ from the mainstream culture in society?

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**Section D: Mass Media**

- 7 The mass media play a major role in agenda setting in modern industrial societies. However, audience selection also influences the way people interpret media messages.

(a) What is meant by the term *audience selection*?

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(b) Describe **two** examples of how the mass media may influence images of older people.

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(c) Explain the pluralist perspective of the role of the media.

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- (d) Assess the 'cultural effects' explanation of how the mass media influence behaviour in society.

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- 8 The mass media often leave out important information and not all sides to a news story are given equal coverage. News reports often contain bias.

(a) What is meant by the term *bias*?

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(b) Describe **two** ways in which journalists may influence the content of news reports.

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- (c) Explain how the process of gathering and editing news reports can lead to bias.

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- (d) To what extent do the mass media represent the interests of privileged groups in society?**

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