



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

CANDIDATE  
NAME

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NUMBER

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**SOCIOLOGY**

**2251/12**

Paper 1

**May/June 2012**

**2 hours 30 minutes**

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

No additional materials are required.

**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 pen.

You may use a soft pencil for any diagrams, graphs or rough working.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

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

Answer Question 1 and **three** questions from Sections **B** to **D**.

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

This document consists of **28** printed pages.



**Section A: Research Methods**

For  
Examiner's  
Use

- 1 When sociologists study a subject they have to gather data. This data will either be primary or secondary. Primary data is that which sociologists gather at first hand for their own purpose and will be designed with their research in mind.

Secondary data already exists and so the researcher does not have to spend the time, or incur the expense, of gathering the information. Secondary data can be found in many different forms, including official statistics and *personal documents*.

Primary data enables the researcher to gather information that relates directly to the *hypothesis* they have developed. However, researchers have to be careful that their work is not subjective, as *subjectivity* can influence the validity of the data collected.

(a) What is meant by the following terms:

(i) Personal documents

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..... [2]

(ii) Hypothesis

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..... [2]

(iii) Subjectivity

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..... [2]

(b) Describe **two** reasons why research data may lack validity.

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(c) Describe **two** methods of collecting primary data.

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(d) Describe **one** strength and **one** limitation of secondary data.

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(e) Describe **one** strength and **one** limitation of using personal documents in sociological research.

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(f) Describe **two** strengths and **two** limitations of using official statistics in sociological research.

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**Section B: Culture and Socialisation**

For  
Examiner's  
Use

2 Learning to be human is a long process influenced by many factors, one of which is gender. Gender role socialisation will have an effect on the life chances of the individual.

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

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.....[2]

(b) Describe **two** examples of gender role socialisation.

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(d) How far are the life chances of females affected by gender role socialisation?

For  
Examiner's  
Use

Dotted lines for answer writing.





3 Functionalists would see the legal system benefiting all in society, as they believe that laws create social order. Marxists see the legal system as a form of social control that serves the interests of the ruling class.

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

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.....[2]

(b) Describe **two** agencies of social control, apart from the legal system.

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**Section C: Social Stratification and Inequality**

For  
Examiner's  
Use

4 In modern industrial societies social mobility is easier to achieve than in traditional societies. Sociologists distinguish between inter-generational and intra-generational social mobility.

(a) What is meant by the term *intra-generational social mobility*?

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.....[2]

(b) Describe **two** examples of inter-generational social mobility.

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.....[4]



(d) To what extent have changes in patterns of employment resulted in increased social mobility?

*For  
Examiner's  
Use*

Dotted lines for writing.





5 Many governments have introduced laws to stop racism. In spite of these laws there is still racial discrimination, but sociologists disagree about the extent of this.

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

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..... [2]

(b) Describe **two** examples of racial discrimination.

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**Section D: Power and Authority**

For  
Examiner's  
Use

**6** Pressure groups attempt to influence government decision making through a process known as lobbying. Lobbying may advantage some social groups more than others.

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

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.....[2]

**(b)** Describe **two** types of pressure groups.

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7 In many societies the people have gained the right to vote with a secret ballot. However, in some democracies there is a trend that shows many young people are not using their vote.

(a) What is meant by the term *secret ballot*?

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(b) Describe **two** types of voting system.

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