



# Cambridge O Level

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**SOCIOLOGY**

**2251/14**

Paper 1

**May/June 2021**

**2 hours**

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

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## INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **two** questions in total:  
Section A: answer Question 1.  
Answer **either** Question 2 in Section B **or** Question 3 in Section C.
- 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 80.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].

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This document has **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

## Section A: Theory and methods

### Answer Question 1

#### 1 Source A

A researcher's non-participant observation study focused on how four different institutions cared for elderly patients. The patients suffered from a range of problems including memory loss and confused thinking. Over several months the researcher visited the institutions at different times of day and night, during weekdays as well as weekends. This enabled the researcher to gather in-depth data on the life of elderly patients.

The researcher stated that the success of the study depended on building personal and trusting relationships with the respondents. This made the elderly patients more willing to open up to the researcher. However the researcher did recognise, by developing close relationships with respondents, that "it can be hard not to become too emotionally involved".

The researcher stated that she had better relationships with some respondents than others and observations were influenced by what she felt: "I might have seen and heard things differently because of positive or negative feelings".

Adapted from a study by Declercq (2000): *Observation in Nursing Home Wards for People Suffering from Dementia*

- (a) From **Source A**, identify **two** problems suffered by the elderly patients. [2]
- (b) Identify **two** research methods that gather qualitative data. [2]
- (c) Using information from **Source A**, describe **two** reasons why the data gathered might not be accurate. [4]
- (d) Describe **two** strengths of using interpretivist approaches in sociological research. [4]
- (e) Describe **two** strengths and **two** limitations of using laboratory experiments in sociological research. [8]
- (f) Explain why positivists prefer to use quantitative data. [10]
- (g) To what extent is observation the most effective method for gathering sociological data? [15]

Answer **either** Question 2 or Question 3

**Section B: Culture, identity and socialisation**

- 2 As a result of globalisation some societies have become multicultural but in other societies ethnic minorities have not been accepted. Ethnicity like other forms of social identity, such as gender or class, may impact on the roles of the individual.
- (a) What is meant by the term 'ethnic minority'? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** examples of cultural diversity between different societies. [4]
- (c) Explain how a multicultural society can benefit its members. [6]
- (d) Explain why secondary socialisation is important. [8]
- (e) To what extent does gender determine the roles individuals have in society? [15]

**Section C: Social inequality**

- 3 During the 1950s and 1960s Martin Luther King was a leader of the Civil Rights Movement in the USA. Campaigns for equality still occur today in different parts of the world. In 2016 two Vietnamese civil rights campaigners were jailed following peaceful protests.
- (a) What is meant by the term 'civil rights'? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** ways disabled people may experience inequality. [4]
- (c) Explain how some ethnic groups are discriminated against. [6]
- (d) Explain why some sociologists believe social class is less important today. [8]
- (e) To what extent are societies meritocratic? [15]

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