



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

CANDIDATE  
NAME

CENTRE  
NUMBER

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**SOCIOLOGY**

**2251/11**

Paper 1

**October/November 2011**

**2 hours 30 minutes**

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

No additional materials are required.

**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

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.

**DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.**

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

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.

This document consists of **22** printed pages and **2** blank pages.



Sociology

Section A: Research Methods

For  
Examiner's  
Use

1 Questionnaires and structured interviews are quantitative research methods. They are normally used by positivist sociologists who favour using scientific methods to collect data. Questionnaires can be conducted on a face-to-face basis, or can be sent by post. Researchers who use questionnaires often conduct a pilot study before they begin in order to identify any difficulties. They also need to select a suitable sampling frame in order for the results to be representative.

Closed questions are often used with questionnaires. They help to improve the reliability of the study. Sociologists who prefer to collect qualitative data say that questionnaires lack validity. They favour less formal research methods, such as unstructured interviews and participant observation.

(a) In sociological research, what is meant by the following terms:

(i) structured interviews

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..... [2]

(ii) pilot study

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..... [2]

(iii) closed questions

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..... [2]

(b) Describe **two** methods of selecting a sample when carrying out a postal questionnaire.

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(c) Describe **two** suitable sampling frames when using a questionnaire.

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(d) Describe **two** problems of using a *postal* questionnaire.

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(e) Describe **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of using open-ended questions in a questionnaire.

*For  
Examiner's  
Use*

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(f) Describe **two** advantages and **two** disadvantages of using structured interviews in sociological research.

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**Section B: Culture and Socialisation**

For  
Examiner's  
Use

**2** Cultural differences between societies are reproduced through the process of socialisation. It is also through socialisation that children learn their social roles.

**(a)** What is meant by the term *cultural differences*?

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..... [2]

**(b)** Describe **two** social roles an individual performs.

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(c) Explain how children learn their social roles.

For  
Examiner's  
Use

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3 Various forms of social control are important in creating stability in society. Both formal and informal social controls play an important role in all societies.

(a) What is meant by the term *formal social control*?

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..... [2]

(b) Describe **two** examples of informal social control.

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**Section C: Social Stratification and Inequality**

For  
Examiner's  
Use

4 In most societies people who are wealthy have a high status.

(a) What is meant by the term *high status*?

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..... [2]

(b) Describe **one** example of ascribed status and **one** example of achieved status.

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5 Ethnic minorities are often still discriminated against, even though governments have introduced policies to reduce social inequality.

(a) What is meant by the term *social inequality*?

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..... [2]

(b) Describe **two** forms of discrimination ethnic minorities may face.

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**Section D: Power and Authority**

For  
Examiner's  
Use

**6** In democratic systems, there are many ways in which people can participate in the political process. The opposite is true in authoritarian regimes.

**(a)** What is meant by the term *political participation*?

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**(b)** Describe **two** ways an individual can participate in the political system.

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7 Political socialisation takes place in a number of ways in democracies.

(a) What is meant by the term *political socialisation*?

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..... [2]

(b) Describe **two** ways in which people develop their political views.

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