Cambridge International AS & A Level

Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge International Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced Level

SOCIOLOGY **9699/21**

Paper 2 Theory and Methods **May/June 2016**

1 hour 30 minutes

No Additional Materials are required.

0474075287

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

An answer booklet is provided inside this question paper. You should follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.

This document consists of **2** printed pages, **2** blank pages and **1** insert.

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Section A

Answer question 1.

1 Sociologists choose unstructured interviews as a method because they wish to gain a detailed understanding of an interviewee's view of a particular subject. By contrast, questionnaires and structured interviews use standardised, written questions. Questionnaires are usually completed in private, whereas in a structured interview the interviewer is present to ask the questions and record the answers.

Conducting unstructured interviews requires great skill. For example, the respondent needs to feel comfortable and be given the time to develop their answers. Furthermore, the researcher must listen carefully to the responses so that any interesting leads are identified and followed up. Sociologists who prefer to use qualitative data favour this method, which is sometimes called an in-depth interview. Depending on the nature of the research, sociologists often use a *sampling frame* to obtain their sample.

(a) What is meant by the term *sampling frame*? [2]

(b) Describe **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of using a questionnaire in sociological research. [4]

(c) Explain some of the problems sociologists face when conducting structured interviews. [8]

(d) 'The limitations of unstructured interviews far outweigh their strengths.' Assess this claim. [11]

Section B

Answer **either** question 2 **or** question 3.

2 'Sociologists who believe that research can be carried out unaffected by their personal prejudices and values are mistaken.' Explain and assess this claim. [25]

3 'Rather than being maintained through ideology, as Marxists claim, social order is based on common interests.' Explain and assess this view. [25]

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