Cambridge International AS & A Level

**Cambridge International Examinations**
Cambridge International Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced Level

**SOCIOLOGY** **9699/23**

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

**1 hour 30 minutes**

No Additional Materials are required.



**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.

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## Section A

Answer question 1.

**1** There are two types of explanation of social order. One focuses on the role of shared norms and values in maintaining cohesion in society. Parsons, for example, argued that social order is created through the process of socialisation whereby people come to internalise the same views about what is acceptable behaviour. It follows that social order largely depends on people fulfilling the roles they have learnt to play in a given situation. For example, teachers and pupils, or workers and managers, are expected to behave in accordance with these roles.

Another explanation of social order suggests that weaker social groups are pressured into accepting the rules of society by the powerful. In this view, society is based on conflict rather than consensus. For Marxists, in particular, the state plays a key role in maintaining social control through the exercise of force and the influence of ruling class *ideology*.

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

**(b)** Describe **two** reasons why workers generally conform to their expected roles. [4]

**(c)** Explain the Marxist view of how the state maintains social control. [8]

**(d)** Assess the view that the functionalist theory of social order overestimates the amount of consensus in society. [11]

## Section B

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

**2** 'Individual behaviour is too unpredictable for it to be studied scientifically.' Explain and assess this claim. [25]

**3** 'Qualitative methods should not be used in sociological research because they lack reliability.' Explain and assess this view. [25]

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