Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge International AS & A Level

SOCIOLOGY **9699/21**

Paper 2 Theory and Methods **May/June 2020**

1 hour 30 minutes

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **two** questions in total:
  - Section A: answer Question 1.
  - Section B: answer **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
- 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 50.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].

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Section A

Answer Question 1.

Interviews can be of three main types: structured, unstructured and semi-structured. There are important differences between these types of interview. Structured interviews are similar to questionnaires in that they contain pre-set questions that are asked in the same order every time. In a structured interview the questions are asked by an interviewer, whereas a questionnaire is usually given to a respondent to complete on their own. Both questionnaires and structured interviews are usually used to collect quantitative data, and as such are unlikely to be used by interpretivist sociologists.

In contrast to the pre-set questions used in structured interviews, an unstructured interview is more like a conversation. This in-depth nature means that unstructured interviews generate *qualitative data*. A semi-structured interview is a mixture of structured and unstructured interviewing methods, where a number of questions may be pre-set but the interviewer is able to ask additional questions.

1 **(a)** What is meant by the term *qualitative data*? [2]

(b) Describe **two** advantages of using questionnaires. [4]

(c) Explain why interpretivist sociologists are unlikely to use structured interviews. [8]

(d) Assess arguments in favour of semi-structured interviews as a method of sociological research. [11]

Section B

Answer **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

2 'Sociologists have exaggerated the extent to which people conform to social norms and expectations in modern societies.' Explain and assess this view. [25]

3 'Sociologists should use their research to help powerless groups in society.' Explain and assess this view. [25]

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