Cambridge International AS & A Level

Cambridge Assessment International Education
Cambridge International Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced Level

SOCIOLOGY **9699/21**

Paper 2 Theory and Methods **October/November 2019**

1 hour 30 minutes

No Additional Materials are required.

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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 Positivists use methods that are scientific. This is because they think that the best way to find out about social behaviour is to apply the methods of the natural sciences. For positivists, the aim of research is to gather data that may be used to confirm or reject a hypothesis. To do this they use methods which collect quantitative data. These include questionnaires, *structured interviews*, field experiments and laboratory experiments. For positivists, one advantage of these types of method is that they allow the researcher to ensure that their research is free from bias.

However, interpretivists think that people cannot be studied in the same way as objects in the natural world and for this reason they argue against the use of scientific methods in sociological research. Interpretivists also believe that data produced using methods like questionnaires lacks validity.

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

(b) Describe **two** features that make laboratory experiments scientific. [4]

(c) Explain why it is difficult to ensure that sociological research is free from bias. [8]

(d) Assess the interpretivist argument that data produced using questionnaires lacks validity. [11]

Section B

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

2 'All members of society benefit from the existence of social order.' Explain and assess this view. [25]

3 'Gender has little influence on social identity today.' Explain and assess this view. [25]

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