UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

SOCIOLOGY **0495/12**

Paper 1 **May/June 2010**

2 hours 30 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

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READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.
Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen.
You may use a soft pencil for any diagrams, graphs or rough working.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer Question 1 and **three** questions from Sections **B** to **D**.
At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.
The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.

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Section A: Research Methods

Unstructured or informal interviews are used by researchers who are seeking to collect *qualitative* data. The aim of the interview is to collect detailed responses. Usually such interviews are carried out in an informal setting to help the interviewee feel relaxed. This will enable the interviewee to answer in their own way.

Limitations with this method of collecting data include the possibility that there may be an interviewer effect. Also, unstructured interviews may not be representative and are said to lack reliability. In addition, there may be problems recording information accurately as answers may be very long.

Sociologists who carry out quantitative research often use methods like questionnaires and focus on using standardised questions which can be given to a much larger sample. From such surveys generalisations can be made if the sample is well constructed.

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

(i) informal setting [2]

(ii) reliability [2]

(iii) standardised questions. [2]

(b) **(i)** Describe **one** reason why *unstructured* interviews may not be representative. [2]

(ii) Describe **one** reason why *unstructured* interviews may not be valid. [2]

(c) Describe **two** reasons why *unstructured* interviews are a good method for collecting *qualitative* data. [4]

(d) Describe **two** reasons why *unstructured* interviews may not be a suitable method for collecting *quantitative* data. [4]

(e) Briefly describe **two** methods, other than a questionnaire, that a sociologist might use to collect *quantitative* data. [4]

(f) Describe **two** strengths and **two** limitations of using quantitative research in Sociology. [8]

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Section B: Culture and Socialisation

2 Sociologists believe men and women develop their gender roles through socialisation.

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

(b) Describe **two** ways in which gender roles are learned. [4]

(c) Explain why the gender roles of males and females may differ. [6]

(d) To what extent are people free to choose their gender roles? [8]

3 For societies to remain stable social control must be established.

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

(b) Describe **two** ways in which informal social control can be carried out. [4]

(c) Explain how formal social control operates in modern industrial societies. [6]

(d) How far does social control benefit everyone in society? [8]

Section C: Social Stratification and Inequality

4 Some sociologists believe women continue to lack social status in many societies.

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

(b) Describe **two** ways in which women lack social status. [4]

(c) Explain why women may have fewer opportunities than men to gain promotion at work in modern industrial societies. [6]

(d) To what extent have there been improvements in women's life chances in modern industrial societies? [8]

5 Stratification remains an important feature of all societies. Social class is one form of stratification in modern industrial societies, but some sociologists claim that it is becoming less important.

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

(b) Describe **two** types of social division, other than social class, in modern industrial societies. [4]

(c) Explain how a person's social class background may influence their work opportunities. [6]

(d) To what extent are social class differences disappearing in modern industrial societies? [8]

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Section D: Power and Authority

6 Free elections are an important feature of a modern democratic society. Other societies may have an authoritarian form of government.

(a) What is meant by a *democratic society*? [2]

(b) Describe **two** features of an authoritarian form of government. [4]

(c) Explain why elections are important in a democratic society. [6]

(d) How far do some pressure groups have more power than others to influence government decision-making? [8]

7 The mass media has become an important feature of elections in modern industrial societies.

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

(b) Describe **two** ways in which the mass media may influence elections. [4]

(c) Explain how political parties may use the mass media during election campaigns. [6]

(d) Assess the view that social class has no longer an important influence on voting behaviour. [8]

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