UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

**SOCIOLOGY** **0495/23**

Paper 2 **May/June 2010**

**1 hour 45 minutes**

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

*2256209559*

**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 any **three** questions.
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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International Examinations

## Section A: Family

**1** Families in modern industrial societies take a variety of forms, though the single parent family is increasingly common.

**(a)** What is meant by the term *single parent family*? [2]

**(b)** Describe **two** other types of family apart from the single parent family. [4]

**(c)** Explain the reasons why there has been an increase in single parent families in modern industrial societies. [6]

**(d)** To what extent has the importance of the family declined in modern industrial societies? [8]

**2** In modern industrial societies, where monogamy is widely practised, there has been a decrease in first marriages and an increase in remarriages in recent years.

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

**(b)** Describe **two** reasons why polygamy is practised in some societies. [4]

**(c)** Explain why first marriages are steadily declining in modern industrial societies. [6]

**(d)** To what extent does the rising divorce rate show that marriage is less important in modern industrial societies? [8]

## Section B: Education

**3** In a meritocracy each pupil has the same opportunity to benefit from the education system.

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

**(b)** Describe **two** ways in which pupils may be treated equally within the education system. [4]

**(c)** Explain why pupils from poorer backgrounds may find it difficult to perform well at school. [6]

**(d)** Assess the evidence that there is equality of opportunity for all pupils within the education systems of modern industrial societies. [8]

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**4** The educational achievement of ethnic minority groups may be influenced by both in and out of school factors.

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

**(b)** Describe **two** ways in which school factors may influence the educational performance of ethnic minority groups. [4]

**(c)** Explain how factors outside of school may affect the educational performance of ethnic minority groups. [6]

**(d)** How far, and in what ways, may teachers and schools help to improve the educational performance of pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds? [8]

## Section C: Crime, Deviance and Social Control

**5** In some societies young people are regarded as a separate group, with their own distinctive youth culture.

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

**(b)** Describe **two** social characteristics that may distinguish young people from older age groups. [4]

**(c)** Explain why youth cultures have become a feature of modern industrial societies. [6]

**(d)** How far, and in what ways, do youth cultures pose a threat to the dominant values of society? [8]

**6** White-collar crime is greatly under-represented in the official crime statistics.

**(a)** What is meant by the term *white-collar crime*? [2]

**(b)** Describe **two** examples of white-collar crime. [4]

**(c)** Explain why white-collar crime is under-represented in the official crime statistics. [6]

**(d)** How far, and in what ways, are the official crime statistics a reliable indicator of crime levels in society? [8]

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## Section D: The Mass Media

**7** The mass media often stereotype groups and individuals. This is particularly true in the case of gender identities.

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

**(b)** Describe **two** examples of how the media use stereotypes. [4]

**(c)** Explain how the mass media help to reinforce the division of roles between males and females in society. [6]

**(d)** How far, and in what ways, can the mass media influence the lifestyles of young people in society? [8]

**8** It is argued that in a democratic society the mass media promote a variety of opinions.

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

**(b)** Describe **two** reasons why important information may be left out of news reports. [4]

**(c)** Explain how the process of gathering and editing news reports may lead to bias and distortion. [6]

**(d)** How far, and in what ways, does the mass media promote democracy? [8]

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