Cambridge Assessment International Education
Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education

SOCIOLOGY **0495/12**

Paper 1 **May/June 2019**

2 hours (including 15 minutes' reading time)

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

9728547117

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 **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.

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Section A: Theory and methods

Answer Question 1

1 Source A

Feminist researchers are often concerned that the balance of power between the researcher and respondent is likely to affect any data gathered. They argue that the interviewer and the interviewee should be seen as equals in the research process. Feminists prefer unstructured interviews which give time and space for the interviewee to offer their views.

In structured interviews the interviewer is the one in control, they direct the questioning and record the data. In unstructured interviews the interviewees describe their experiences in their own words with the interviewer acting only as a guide. This is why feminists prefer to use unstructured interviews. Feminists also like to use focus groups in their research.

Positivists select objective methods that avoid interviewer bias but feminists reject this approach. Instead feminists claim that developing a relationship with respondents is an essential part of establishing trust and respect. Positivists also argue that unstructured interviews are very difficult to repeat.

(a) From **Source A**, identify **two** research methods used by feminists. [2]

(b) Identify **two** types of observation used by sociologists. [2]

(c) Using information from **Source A**, describe **two** reasons why some sociologists like to use unstructured interviews. [4]

(d) Describe **two** strengths of using a social survey in sociological research. [4]

(e) Describe **two** strengths and **two** limitations of using focus groups in sociological research. [8]

(f) Explain why sampling is important for sociological research. [10]

(g) To what extent is validity the most important aspect of sociological research? [15]

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

Section B: Culture, identity and socialisation

2 Peer groups are an important part of growing up and are an agency of informal social control, particularly for gender identity. Peer pressure can make individuals conform to the norms of the peer group and may cause role conflict for young people.

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

(b) Describe **two** examples of norms expected of students in schools. [4]

(c) Explain how young people may experience role conflict. [6]

(d) Explain why some young people join sub-cultures. [8]

(e) To what extent is social identity influenced by gender? [15]

Section C: Social inequality

3 Capitalism is a system that supports ownership of private property and making a profit. Marxists argue that capitalism leads to social inequality in society. Equal opportunities legislation has been introduced by some societies to reduce inequalities.

(a) What is meant by the term 'social inequality'? [2]

(b) Describe **two** examples of social exclusion. [4]

(c) Explain how equal opportunities legislation has improved people's life chances. [6]

(d) Explain why welfare states have been introduced in some societies. [8]

(e) To what extent does gender inequality still exist in the workplace? [15]

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