Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge IGCSE™

SOCIOLOGY **0495/11**

Paper 1 Research Methods, Identity and Inequality **May/June 2025**

2 hours

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

6067250012

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **two** questions in total:
  - Answer Question 1.
  - 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 80.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].

This document has **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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Answer Question 1.

Research methods

1 Read Source A and then answer the questions below.

Source A
In the United States Barbara Ehrenreich used covert participant observation to research how working class people are able to live on low wages. For several months Ehrenreich left her middle-class home and lived and worked with people in low-wage jobs. She found work in four different cities in the United States. Her various jobs included being a waitress, a cleaner, a care home assistant and a shop worker. She wrote down her experiences at the end of each day. For her research Ehrenreich experienced trying to live on a low wage to pay for her food, clothing, transportation and shelter.

Using covert participant observation allowed Ehrenreich to gain a first-hand, qualitative and in-depth understanding of the difficult lives of low-wage workers. Her conclusions were:

- low-wage workers cannot afford basic necessities without working in more than one job
- low-wage workers are often socially controlled through random searches of their bags and drug testing
- managers had negative attitudes to low-wage workers based on class or racial prejudice
- medical treatment and childcare are too expensive for low-wage workers.

Source: adapted from an internet summary of 'Nickel and Dimed' by Barbara Ehrenreich.

(a) **(i)** From **Source A**, identify **two** conclusions of Ehrenreich`s research. [2]

(ii) Using information in **Source A**, explain **two** reasons why the research is useful for studying the experiences of low-wage workers. [4]

(iii) Using information in **Source A**, explain **three** problems with the research for understanding the experiences of low-wage workers. [6]

(b) State **two** aspects of a positivist approach to sociological research. [2]

(c) Explain **one** strength and **one** limitation of semi-structured interviews. [4]

(d) Evaluate the macro approach to sociological research.

Your answer should include:

- at least **two** arguments for and **two** arguments against
- a conclusion. [10]

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(e) Explain the research methods and evidence that you would choose to investigate views on marriage. Give reasons for your choices.

Your answer should include:

- **two** primary methods with relevant sampling
- **one** source of secondary evidence. [12]

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

Identity: self and society

2 **(a)** Define the term:

(i) agencies of socialisation [2]

(ii) hybrid identities. [2]

(b) Give **two** examples of coercion. [2]

(c) Explain **three** ways young people can be negatively affected by social media. [6]

(d) Explain **three** ways that identity can be negatively impacted by global culture. [6]

(e) Discuss how courts are an effective agency of formal social control.

Your answer should include:

- at least **three** developed points with evidence. [8]

(f) Evaluate the functionalist view of socialisation.

Your answer should include:

- at least **three** arguments for and **three** arguments against
- a conclusion. [14]

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Social stratification and inequality

3 **(a)** Define the term:

(i) welfare state [2]

(ii) intersectionality. [2]

(b) Give **two** features of the poverty trap. [2]

(c) Explain **three** pull factors that may cause people to migrate to another country. [6]

(d) Explain **three** criticisms of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). [6]

(e) Discuss the view that ethnicity affects life chances.

Your answer should include:

- at least **three** developed points with evidence. [8]

(f) Evaluate the view that legislation has reduced inequalities in society.

Your answer should include:

- at least **three** arguments for and **three** arguments against
- a conclusion. [14]

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