Cambridge Assessment International Education

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SOCIOLOGY **0495/12**

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)

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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.

Section A: Research methods

1 Read Source A and then answer the questions below.

Source A

Fig. 1.1 shows the number of people aged under 25 in selected countries. The data shows population changes in these countries between 1975 and 2015. The secondary data in the chart was gathered by the World Health Organisation (WHO). The WHO employs professional researchers to produce its statistics using census data from each country. The researchers rounded data up or down to the nearest million people.

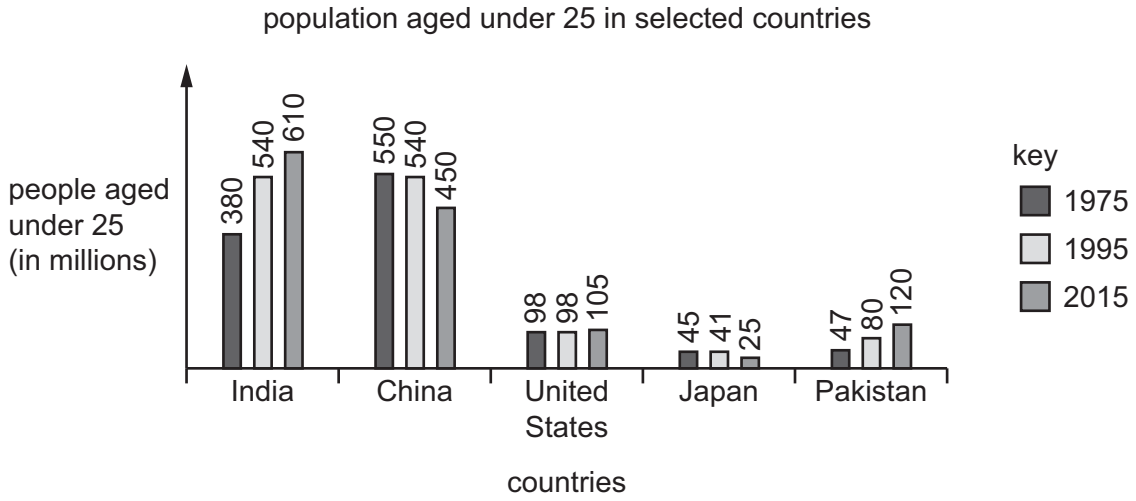


Fig. 1.1

Source: adapted from the website 'Our World in Data'.

(a) **(i)** From **Source A**, identify **two** countries where there has been an increase in the number of people aged under 25 between 1975 and 2015. [2]

(ii) Using information in **Source A**, explain **two** reasons why the data is useful for studying population change in people aged under 25. [4]

(iii) Using information in **Source A**, explain **three** reasons why the data may **not** be useful for understanding population change. [6]

(b) State **two** stages in research design. [2]

(c) Explain **one** strength and **one** limitation of participant observation. [4]

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(d) Evaluate the effectiveness of semi-structured interviews in sociological research.

Your answer should include:

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

(e) Explain the research methods and evidence that you would choose to investigate age inequality in the workplace. 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) penal system [2]

(ii) consensus. [2]

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

(c) Explain **three** ways an individual's identity can be positively affected by social networks. [6]

(d) Explain **three** reasons why the media is an effective agency of socialisation. [6]

(e) Discuss the view that cultural identities are becoming the same all over the world.

Your answer should include:

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

(f) Evaluate Marxist views of social control.

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) capitalism [2]

(ii) modern slavery. [2]

(b) State **two** global ecological issues. [2]

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

(d) Explain **three** reasons why social mobility exists. [6]

(e) Discuss the view that people's life chances are affected by age.

Your answer should include:

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

(f) Evaluate the view that labelling theory is the best explanation for social inequalities.

Your answer should include:

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

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