UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

SOCIOLOGY **0495/11**

Paper 1 **October/November 2010**

2 hours 30 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

8985027205

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 ink.
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.

This document consists of **4** printed pages.

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Sociology

Section A: Research Methods

Interviewing is a popular method of research in Sociology. Interviews can take a variety of forms: structured, unstructured and semi-structured. They can be undertaken on a one to one basis or conducted with a group. Sociologists who want to gather quantitative data will tend to use structured interviews because data can be coded and responses can be standardised. Interpretive sociologists tend to favour unstructured interviews because they may generate new lines of sociological enquiry.

In all interviews care must be taken regarding the social characteristics of the researcher, as there may be an interviewer effect. Care also should be taken about the wording of the questions to ensure the respondent will understand their meaning.

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

(i) semi-structured interviews [2]

(ii) interpretive sociologists [2]

(iii) interviewer effect. [2]

(b) Describe **two** ways unstructured interviews differ from structured ones. [4]

(c) Describe **two** ways in which the personal characteristics of the interviewer may influence the answers given by the respondent. [4]

(d) Describe **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of carrying out group interviews. [4]

(e) Describe **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of using *quantitative* data in sociological research. [4]

(f) Describe **two** strengths and **two** limitations of *unstructured interviews*. [8]

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Section B: Culture and Socialisation

2 Sociologists believe that differences in gender roles are largely the result of socialisation.

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

(b) Describe **two** ways in which gender roles differ between the sexes. [4]

(c) Explain how an individual's family may help a person to learn their gender roles. [6]

(d) To what extent are there differences in the roles of men and women in modern industrial societies? [8]

3 One example of cultural differences concerns the ways children are socialised differently in various societies. However, in all societies children tend to experience more social control than adults.

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

(b) Describe **two** differences in the way children are socialised in different societies. [4]

(c) Explain why some young people tend to reject social control and form their own subcultures. [6]

(d) To what extent are families more child-focused in modern industrial societies than in other types of society? [8]

Section C: Social stratification and Inequality

4 In modern industrial societies some people have more status than others. Status can be achieved or ascribed.

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

(b) Describe **two** ways in which a person can achieve higher status. [4]

(c) Explain the advantages that people gain from having high status in modern industrial societies. [6]

(d) How far is it possible for people from the working class to achieve higher status in modern industrial societies? [8]

5 Some sociologists believe women have achieved gender equality in modern industrial societies.

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

(b) Describe **two** ways women may be discriminated against in employment. [4]

(c) Explain why an employer may discriminate against female workers. [6]

(d) Assess the idea that class background is more important than gender in influencing the opportunities a woman has in life. [8]

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Section D: Power and Authority

6 There are many types of political systems in the world. The two main types are democracies and authoritarian regimes**.**

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

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

(c) Explain how authoritarian regimes maintain their power. [6]

(d) Assess the view that some groups are more powerful than others in influencing government decision-making in a democratic state. [8]

7 Becoming a member of a pressure group is one way of trying to gain political influence in democratic societies.

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

(b) Describe **two** ways, other than by joining a pressure group, an individual can become involved in political activity in a democracy. [4]

(c) Explain how pressure groups try to influence governments. [6]

(d) To what extent are there limitations on a government's power in a democracy? [8]

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