Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge IGCSE™

SOCIOLOGY **0495/11**

Paper 1 **October/November 2023**

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:
  - Section A: answer Question 1.
  - Answer **either** Question 2 in Section B **or** Question 3 in Section C.
- 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 **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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Section A: Theory and methods

Answer Question 1

1 Source A

Focus groups are a method of research used in sociology and wider society. Like most research methods, focus groups have strengths and weaknesses. One strength is that focus groups allow researchers to obtain in-depth data. Weaknesses of focus groups are that they can be expensive to organise and are time consuming.

Researchers Slater and Tiggemann used six focus groups to study girls' reasons for withdrawing from sport. A sample of 49 adolescent girls between the ages of 13 and 15 was selected. By using focus groups the researchers were able to create an atmosphere where the girls felt comfortable talking honestly. During the girls' discussion the researchers were able to observe body language and interaction between participants.

During each focus group Slater and Tiggemann only asked two questions. The researchers deliberately took a less active role to allow the girls' conversation to develop naturally.

Source*: Adapted from Slater and Tiggemann (2010) "Uncool to do sport"*.

(a) From **Source A**, identify **two** weaknesses of focus groups. [2]

(b) Identify **two** methods that could be used by interpretivists, apart from focus groups. [2]

(c) Using information from **Source A**, describe **two** reasons why the research may be valid. [4]

(d) Describe **two** strengths of using laboratory experiments in sociological research. [4]

(e) Describe **two** strengths and **two** limitations of snowball sampling. [8]

(f) Explain why some sociologists use secondary data in sociological research. [10]

(g) To what extent are questionnaires the best method for sociological research? [15]

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

Section B: Culture, identity and socialisation

2 Many societies today are multicultural. In multicultural societies people of different ethnicities with different customs live together. There are similarities between all societies, for example every society has children and peer groups. However, some sociologists argue childhood is a social construction. Sociologists also discuss how peer groups encourage conformity.

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

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

(c) Explain how peer groups encourage conformity. [6]

(d) Explain why living in a multicultural society may benefit its members. [8]

(e) To what extent is childhood a social construction? [15]

Section C: Social inequality

3 Sociologists debate whether achieved status is more influential than ascribed status. Marxists are interested in social class and how it might affect a person's life chances. However, feminists are more interested in studying the lives of women and whether they experience the glass ceiling in the workplace. Other sociologists research prejudice based on ethnicity.

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

(b) Describe **two** examples of prejudice based on ethnicity. [4]

(c) Explain how being working class may affect a person's life chances. [6]

(d) Explain why some women experience the glass ceiling in the workplace. [8]

(e) To what extent are life chances influenced by achieved status? [15]

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