



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education Advanced Subsidiary Level and Advanced Level

CANDIDATE
NAME

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SOCIOLOGY

9699/23

Paper 2 Principles and Methods 2

October/November 2013

1 hour 30 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

No Additional Materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

You may use a soft pencil for any diagrams, graphs or rough working.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

Answer **two** questions.

You may not need all the answer lines for your answer.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

This document consists of **13** printed pages and **3** blank pages.



Answer **two** questions.

For
Examiner's
Use

1 The interpretivist perspective in sociology is concerned with understanding the processes by which interactions between people take place, how people come to interpret and see things as they do, and how the reactions of others can affect their view of things. Interpretivists view society as the creation of individuals. They emphasise the free will of people to shape their social relationships according to their own aims and values. The *determinism* found in structural theories of society is rejected by interpretivist theories. Rather than studying the structure of society as a whole, interpretivists focus on the individual or small groups of individuals. The main purpose of sociology is to discover and interpret the meanings and definitions that individuals give to their behaviour.

(a) What is meant by the term *determinism*?

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..... [2]

(b) Describe **two** reasons why a person's behaviour may be affected by the reactions of others.

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..... [4]

2 Sociologists often use interviews to collect data. Positivists prefer structured interviews. With this type of interview, a carefully worded set of questions is produced that can be used in the same order in each interview. The interviewer is trained to behave in exactly the same way with each person they interview. The aim is to ensure that there is no researcher effect influencing the answers of the interviewee. In this way it is hoped that the data collected will provide an *objective* and truthful account of the topic that is being investigated.

(a) What is meant by the term *objective*?

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(b) Describe **two** reasons why the questions need to be worded carefully in structured interviews.

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..... [4]

3 Some sociologists have argued that there is a class beneath the *working class*. This class is often referred to as the underclass. Charles Murray has argued that there is a growing underclass in many modern industrial societies that includes single-parents, those making a living from crime, and unemployed people who choose not to work. Members of the underclass reject values such as honesty and hard work. However, this cultural theory of the underclass neglects economic divisions. Giddens explains the existence of the underclass in economic terms. He claims that the underclass is made up of workers in a secondary labour market that is characterised by low-paid, insecure jobs. Employers often recruit women and ethnic minorities into such jobs, partly because of discrimination and prejudice.

(a) What is meant by the term *working class*?

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(b) Describe **two** reasons why single-parent families are likely to have low incomes.

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