

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

SOCIOLOGY

9699/02

Paper 2 Principles and Methods 2

May/June 2006

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

1 hour 30 minutes

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 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.

Answer **two** questions.

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 **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.



Answer **two** questions.

- 1 The process by which individuals learn the culture of their society is known as socialisation. Primary socialisation, probably the most important part of the socialisation process, takes place during infancy, usually within the family. Socialisation is not, however, confined to childhood. It is a lifelong process. In modern industrial societies, other important agencies of socialisation include the educational system, the media, the occupational group and the peer group. Without socialisation, an individual would have little resemblance to any human being defined as normal by the standards of his or her society. Most societies have a range of sanctions that may be used to support the socialisation process and to deter deviant behaviour. This is known as social control.
- (a) What is meant by the term *peer group*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** sanctions that may be used to deter deviant behaviour. [4]
- (c) Explain how children learn to interact with other people during infancy. [8]
- (d) 'Sociologists have exaggerated the extent to which people conform to social norms and expectations in modern societies.' Assess this claim. [11]
- 2 Observation studies can be participant or non-participant, covert or overt. Participant observation involves a researcher joining a group and taking a full part in their lives. This approach allows the researcher to observe the 'natural' behaviour of the group members in their own environment. Those in favour of qualitative methods claim that studies based on participant observation are high in validity. They point out that the relatively small size of the study group, as well as the long periods spent with them, means that a considerable amount of highly detailed first-hand data can be gained. However, observational studies in general give rise to a number of practical and ethical problems.
- (a) What is meant by the term *validity*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** ethical problems associated with observational studies. [4]
- (c) Explain what factors may influence whether a researcher uses *covert* or *overt* participant observation. [8]
- (d) Assess the strengths **and** limitations of non-participant observation. [11]

3 Social mobility refers to the movement of individuals or groups between the different levels that make-up the system of social stratification. Social mobility may be upward or downward and may be short or long range – in modern industrial societies most movement is usually over short distances. Sociological studies of social mobility have usually focused on the movement of individuals between occupations, either intergenerational or, less frequently, intragenerational mobility. Such studies regard occupation as the most reliable indicator of social class. There are, however, problems with using occupational scales to measure social mobility.

(a) What is meant by the term *intergenerational mobility*? [2]

(b) Describe **two** reasons why sociologists are interested in studying social mobility. [4]

(c) Explain the problems associated with measuring social mobility. [8]

(d) 'Evidence from social mobility studies suggests that class divisions are breaking down in modern societies.' Assess this statement. [11]

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