



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 2007

1 hour 30 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

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.

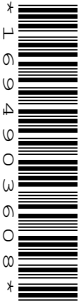
You may use a soft pencil for any diagrams, graphs or rough working.

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 A conventional assumption is that children often behave differently from adults because of natural differences between the two age groups. Thus it may be assumed that playing with toys and seeking the attention of adults are forms of behaviour that infants are naturally predisposed towards. The process of growing out of childhood and maturing into an adult is also often seen as something that happens automatically to people once they reach a certain age. Yet these commonsense assumptions run up against the problem that there is considerable cultural diversity in the behaviour patterns of infants. Similarly, the age at which people are considered adults varies between societies. These cultural differences suggest that, far from being natural, the identities associated with the roles 'child' and 'adult' are socially constructed.

(a) What is meant by the term *socially constructed*? [2]

(b) Describe **two** examples of cultural differences in the behaviour patterns of infants. [4]

(c) Explain how a person develops a 'social self' during infancy. [8]

(d) Assess the claim that sociologists have exaggerated the role of socialisation in shaping human behaviour. [11]

2 The research methods most often adopted in sociological investigations are questionnaires, interviews and observation. Less widely used methods of sociological research include experiments, case studies, life histories, and content analysis. Experiments are favoured by those in the positivist tradition who suggest that sociology should aim to be as 'scientific' as possible. Case studies and life histories are used most by sociologists adopting an interpretive approach. Content analysis is widely used to investigate the nature of representations constructed by the mass media. In the case of content analysis the media provide a source of secondary data for sociological investigation. Other sources of secondary data that sociologists have used in their studies include: official statistics, diaries, letters, historical documents and sound recordings. However, special care needs to be taken when using secondary data in sociological research as it may be distorted and lack objectivity.

(a) What is meant by the term *case study*? [2]

(b) Describe **two** research topics that might be suitable for sociological investigation using content analysis. [4]

(c) Explain why experiments are favoured by those in the positivist tradition. [8]

(d) Assess the strengths and limitations of using official statistics in sociological research. [11]

3 The sexual division of labour has changed dramatically in recent times. The traditional distinction between male breadwinners and female housewives no longer fits reality. Family life today is characterised by a diverse and complex range of social relations. Moreover, women have increasingly entered paid employment over the last fifty years and they now form almost half of the workforce in most modern industrial societies. These changes have led some commentators to suggest that women are gaining equality at last and that a shift in power from men to women is taking place. Such claims are contradicted by feminist research. The evidence collected by feminist sociologists shows that, despite significant changes in the patterns of female and male employment, women are still disadvantaged in paid work compared to their male counterparts. These persistent inequalities are linked to the different types of work that women and men perform. Women and men are largely segregated into different occupations and into different levels within the same occupation. Most household tasks also continue to be performed by women and this adds to the difficulties that women face in achieving equality with men in paid employment.

- (a) What is meant by the term *sexual division of labour*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** ways in which women are still disadvantaged in paid employment compared to their male counterparts. [4]
- (c) Explain the links between sexual inequality in the home and the difficulties that women may face in achieving equality with men in paid employment. [8]
- (d) Assess the Marxist feminist approach to explaining sexual inequality in paid employment. [11]

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