

SOCIOLOGY

9699/22

Paper 2 Theory and methods

May/June 2015

1 hour 30 minutes

No Additional Materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

An answer booklet is provided inside this question paper. You should follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

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



This document consists of **2** printed pages, **2** blank pages and **1** insert.

Section A

Answer question 1.

Interpretivists reject the idea that it is possible to investigate humans as objects of scientific study. However, they do try to conduct their research impartially and are reflexive about this, i.e. they are careful to review how objective they are as they proceed. Interpretivists choose from a wide range of qualitative methods to gather data. Sometimes these methods may be used together to form an ethnographic approach, where the aim of the researcher is to provide a thorough understanding of the culture of the group. Such an approach involves attempting to focus on the meanings people generate to make sense of their lives. To achieve this end, interpretivists often use a technique in their research known as *verstehen*.

Interpretivists have questioned whether it is possible to research people in a value-free way. Positivists, on the other hand, believe that it is possible for sociologists to study society without the research findings being influenced by value judgements.

- 1 (a) What is meant by the term *verstehen*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** methods of research favoured by interpretivists. [4]
- (c) Explain why it might be impossible to study society in a value-free way. [8]
- (d) Assess the interpretivist view that it is inappropriate to use scientific methods for the study of human behaviour. [11]

Section B

Answer **either** question 2 **or** question 3.

- 2 'Longitudinal surveys provide a more complete understanding of society than can be achieved using other research methods.' Explain and assess this view. [25]
- 3 Explain and assess the view that the functionalist approach to socialisation is too deterministic to fully explain how human behaviour is shaped. [25]

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