

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

SOCIOLOGY

9699/2

PAPER 2 Principles and Methods 2

MAY/JUNE SESSION 2002

1 hour 30 minutes

Additional materials:
Answer paper

TIME 1 hour 30 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your name, Centre number and candidate number in the spaces provided on the answer paper/answer booklet.

Write your answers on the separate answer paper provided.

If you use more than one sheet of paper, fasten the sheets together.

There are three questions in this question paper. Answer **two** questions only.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

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

This question paper consists of 3 printed pages and 1 blank page.



- 1 Culture refers to the values, customs and modes of behaviour that are learned and internalised by people rather than being genetically transmitted from one generation to the next. Sociologists claim that culture, rather than biological instinct, is the key to understanding human behaviour. This implies that learning plays an important part in creating *social beings*. In Sociology the term given to the process by which we learn the norms, values and roles approved by our society is 'socialisation'.

Individuals begin at an early age to become aware of the existence of others and to take this knowledge into account as they form their own identities. Gradually, as part of the process of 'growing up', they absorb the standards and expectations of society so unconsciously that they become transformed into social beings almost without noticing it. In this way norms of conduct are experienced as natural and become part of our 'taken-for-granted' assumptions about appropriate social behaviour.

- (a) What is meant by the term *social being*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** examples of 'taken-for-granted' assumptions about appropriate social behaviour. [4]
- (c) Explain how young children become aware of others and form their own identities. [8]
- (d) Assess sociological explanations of why norms may differ for different social groups. Answer with reference to differences between women and men. [11]

- 2 Sociology has had to fight to establish itself as a social science. Using the principles of the scientific method established by the natural sciences, sociologists have developed methods of data collection that enable them to claim that sociological knowledge is as reliable as that found in any other sphere of the social sciences. This does not mean that Sociology can produce universal laws of society (laws that are true for all times and places). However, it can endeavour to follow the rules of the scientific method to establish verifiable data and valid correlations that may be used to confirm or deny an *hypothesis* (or create a new one). In essence, this involves testing theoretical statements against evidence that is gathered by the most logical method in an objective manner and interpreted in an impartial way.

- (a) What is meant by the term *hypothesis*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** methods of data collection used by sociologists. [4]
- (c) Explain the principles and rules of the scientific method established by the natural sciences. [8]
- (d) Assess the view that sociological research should be based on the methods and principles of the natural sciences. [11]

- 3 In recent years the idea that an underclass is emerging – or re-emerging – in the class structure of the modern industrial societies has become a central focus of debate. The term ‘underclass’ generally means a substratum of society somewhere below the working class, economically and socially distinct from the rest of society, with little opportunity to be socially mobile. Characteristically, members of this group live on state benefits, may be involved in crime, are perhaps drug addicts, were conceived when their mothers were in their teenage years, become teenage parents themselves, have children who frequently miss school and missed school themselves.

Some studies have found a disproportionate number of people from *ethnic minorities* in the underclass. However, other sociologists have noted difficulties in linking ethnicity with membership of an underclass.

- (a) What is meant by the term *ethnic minority*? [2]
- (d) Describe **two** reasons why it may be difficult for a person in the underclass to be socially mobile. [4]
- (c) What explanations have sociologists advanced for the emergence of an underclass? [8]
- (d) Assess the usefulness of the concept of an underclass in understanding the inequalities experienced by many ethnic minorities in modern industrial societies. [11]

