

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 2004

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 on both sides of the paper.
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 Many sociologists admit that their research is influenced by their personal values. They believe that the purpose of research is to make the world a better place. Therefore the choice of research topics requires a *value-judgement* that this or that feature of social life is unacceptable, and research that may lead to improvement is a 'good thing'. This means they are concerned about how their research data is used and whose interests it serves.

Positivists, however, take a very hard 'scientific' line and claim that they do research that is neutral in value. All they do, they say, is to search for the truth. What is done with the information they produce is not their concern. They are content to leave it for politicians or bureaucrats to decide how their research is used.

- (a) What is meant by the term *value-judgement*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** factors apart from personal values that may influence the sociologist's choice of research topic. [4]
- (c) Explain how the values of the researcher may lead to bias in the collection and presentation of research data. [8]
- (d) Assess the view that the purpose of sociological research should be to bring about improvements in society. [11]

- 2 Interviewing is a common technique used by sociologists to gather data. Those sociologists who try to proceed like natural scientists prefer to use *structured* interviews. They usually take great pains to draw up a carefully worded set of questions, and try to standardise their performance as interviewers so that they behave in exactly the same way with each respondent. The purpose of all this care is to make sure that nothing 'irrelevant' in the wording of the questions or the performance of the interviewer will influence the answers: that the answers will simply be 'real' opinions, or the 'real' knowledge of the respondent. In this way it is hoped that the data collected will be free from any *researcher bias*.

- (a) What is meant by the term *researcher bias*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** reasons why sociologists should take great care in the way questions are worded in an interview. [4]
- (c) Explain why it may be very difficult for sociologists to avoid influencing the answers when carrying out interviews. [8]
- (d) Assess the strengths **and** limitations of *structured* interviews. [11]

3 Women on the whole earn less than men and are more likely to be employed on a part-time or temporary basis only. They are concentrated into lower-paid occupations such as clerical work, professional work in health, education and welfare, repetitive assembly work, cleaning and catering, etc. In Britain in 2001 women's full-time earnings were 77% of men's. This is an advance on the situation in 1971 when the equivalent figure was 64%. More women experience downward *social mobility* than upward, while for men the reverse is true. Men fill most of the top jobs in industry and the professions. Hence, women are largely excluded from the positions in society that carry most power and this may be one of the reasons why they continue to experience inequality in employment and in the wider society.

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

(b) Describe **two** reasons why women earn less than men. [4]

(c) Explain why men fill most of the top jobs in industry and the professions. [8]

(d) Assess the claim that sexual inequality in employment serves the interests of the ruling class. [11]

