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

CANDIDATE NAME	

CENTRE NUMBER						CANDIDATE NUMBER				

SOCIOLOGY **9699/22**

Paper 2 Principles and Methods 2 **October/November 2012**

1 hour 30 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

No additional materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

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.
DO **NOT** WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

Answer **two** questions.
You may not need all the answer lines for your answer.
The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.

This document consists of **13** printed pages and **3** blank pages.

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Answer **two** questions.

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1 Functionalists and conflict theorists hold contrasting views on the process of social change. Functionalists argue that the survival of any society depends on meeting a set of needs, or what Talcott Parsons refers to as functional prerequisites. Each part of society has an important function to play in ensuring that the functional prerequisites are met. When a pattern of activity, or an institution, is no longer useful in helping society to operate smoothly, it becomes 'dysfunctional' and will gradually be replaced by a more effective alternative. Functionalists believe that rapid social change is likely to have negative consequences for society and may lead to a state of anomie.

The normal state of society, in the functionalist view, is based on harmony and consensus. Society works like a powerful machine to counteract any forces that would undermine *social stability*. For functionalists, social change is a gradual process that is driven by the needs of society rather than by the interests of any particular group or social class. A very different view of social change emerges in conflict theory. Here social change is viewed as an inevitable process that is driven by the competition between different groups for access to scarce resources, such as power, wealth and status. Conflict theorists argue that, rather than evolving gradually, social change is likely to be a more explosive process that is brought about through intense political struggles and possibly even revolutions.

(a) What is meant by the term *social stability*?

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(b) Describe **two** functional prerequisites.

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(c) Explain why functionalists believe that rapid social change is likely to have negative consequences for society.

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.... [8]

(d) Assess the view that conflict theories underestimate the amount of consensus in society.

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.....[11]

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2 In sociological research, it is generally too expensive or time consuming to question very large numbers of people. In order to make the numbers manageable, it is necessary to select some individuals for questioning rather than others. This is known as sampling. The aim of sampling is to ensure that the numbers selected are large enough to fairly represent the group but also to be reasonably easy and economic to manage. Various forms of sampling techniques may be used to select the sample. These techniques are used with an appropriate *sampling frame* to select respondents in the numbers required for the research.

The success of social surveys depends heavily on the accuracy of the sampling process. Social surveys are large-scale studies that seek to collect information which can be expressed in numerical form. The aim is to ensure that the data gathered is representative and can be generalised to the wider population from which the study group is drawn. Positivists favour this type of research, though interpretivists argue that the results from social surveys lack depth and fail to reflect the complex reality that shapes human behaviour.

(a) What is meant by the term *sampling frame*?

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(b) Describe **two** sampling techniques.

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(c) Explain why the success of social surveys depends heavily on the accuracy of the sampling process.

For Examiner's Use

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(d) Assess the strengths and limitations of social surveys.

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3 Functionalists argue that some positions in a modern industrial society are more important than others because they are vital to the continuation of society. Not everyone in society has the talent or ability to fill these top positions. Holders of the top positions also require high-level skills and qualifications in order to perform their roles effectively. They must make personal sacrifices in undergoing lengthy periods of education and training. Functionalists claim that talented people will only be persuaded to make these sacrifices if they can expect to receive high pay and status at the end of it. This leads to the conclusion that a system of inequality, or unequal rewards and prestige, is functional for society because it ensures that the most important jobs are filled by the most talented and qualified people.

Conflict theorists reject the idea that differences in pay and status in society can be explained in terms of the requirement to attract talented people to fill the most important jobs. They claim that differences in pay are more likely to reflect differences in the power and market situation of the groups concerned. Conflict theorists also question whether social inequality is beneficial or 'functional' for society. The benefits that privileged groups gain from a system of unequal rewards may be paid for by the sacrifice and hard work of those who occupy lower positions. This can result in the less advantaged groups feeling a sense of *alienation* and opposition to the better off groups in society.

(a) What is meant by the term *alienation*?

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(b) Describe **two** factors, apart from pay, that influence how much prestige is associated with a particular occupation.

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(c) Explain how differences in pay may reflect differences in the power and market situation of the groups concerned.

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(d) Assess the view that social inequality is functional for society.

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