



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

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**SOCIOLOGY**

**2251/12**

Paper 1

**May/June 2013**

**2 hours 30 minutes**

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

No additional materials are required.

**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

DO **NOT** WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

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.

You may not need all the answer lines for your answer.

Answer Question 1 and **three** questions from Sections **B** to **D**.

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

This document consists of **22** printed pages and **2** blank pages.



Sociology

Section A: Research Methods

1 Much sociological research is conducted by means of questions. Sociologists ask questions in many ways about a huge range of topics. The topics may be as varied as housework and patterns of migration. *Postal questionnaires* are one way in which sociologists may ask questions. This type of research method is favoured by positivists.

Other methods of research concentrate on observing behaviour. The ways in which observation can be carried out vary and include participant observation and *non-participant observation*. Participant observation is used by sociologists who prefer to carry out *qualitative research*. Laboratory experiments may also be used to observe behaviour, but this method is rarely used in sociology.

(a) In sociological research what is meant by the following terms:

(i) Postal questionnaires

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..... [2]

(ii) Non-participant observation

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.....  
..... [2]

(iii) Qualitative research.

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..... [2]

(b) Describe **two** reasons why laboratory experiments are rarely used in sociological research.

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(c) Describe **two** limitations of postal questionnaires.

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..... [4]

(d) Describe **one** strength and **one** limitation of using non-participant observation in sociological research.

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**Section B: Culture and Socialisation**

*For  
Examiner's  
Use*

**2** Some thinkers believe that an individual's social identity is fixed at birth by their sex. However, sociologists believe that socialisation is more important in shaping social identity and social roles.

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

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..... [2]

**(b)** Describe briefly **two** social roles that females can now perform in modern industrial societies.

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..... [4]





3 Functionalists believe that for society to be successful all members have to carry out social roles. Everyone has more than one role and sometimes an individual experiences role conflict.

(a) What is meant by the term role conflict?

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..... [2]

(b) Describe **two** examples of role conflict.

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..... [4]







**Section C: Social Stratification and Inequality**

*For  
Examiner's  
Use*

**4** Slavery and social class are different types of social division.

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

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..... [2]

**(b)** Describe **two** types of social division, apart from slavery and social class.

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5 In spite of attempts to eliminate it, poverty can still be found in all societies. Some people think that attempts to eliminate poverty through welfare provision have created a dependency culture.

(a) What is meant by the term dependency culture?

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..... [2]

(b) Describe **two** ways of defining poverty.

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**Section D: Power and Authority**

*For  
Examiner's  
Use*

**6** There are many forms of government in which power and authority are held in different ways. Examples include dictatorships and democratic systems.

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

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..... [2]

**(b)** Distinguish between charismatic and legal rational authority.

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..... [4]





7 Political systems are organised in many different ways and voting systems vary. Examples of voting systems are first past the post and proportional representation.

(a) What is meant by the term proportional representation?

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..... [2]

(b) Describe **one** strength and **one** limitation of the first past the post voting system.

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