



Cambridge O Level

SOCIOLOGY

2251/12

Paper 1

October/November 2022

2 hours

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **two** questions in total:
Section A: answer Question 1.
Answer **either** Question 2 in Section B **or** Question 3 in Section C.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 80.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

This document has **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.



Section A: Theory and methods

Answer Question 1

1 Source A

Some sociologists prefer to look at society as a whole and take a macro approach while others prefer a micro approach where they can record the thoughts and feelings of individuals.

Taking a micro approach, a researcher began to investigate why young people smoke. After discovering a younger relative had become a smoker, the researcher was interested to learn why young people start to smoke and how it affects their identity. The researcher's first task was to gain access to a sample.

Finding a sample is not always easy if there is not a sampling frame. As young people are unlikely to want to speak to a professional researcher with very different social characteristics, a snowball sample was used. Once a sample was gained an overt participant observation was conducted.

- (a) From Source A identify **two** approaches used by sociologists. [2]
- (b) Identify **two** types of historical document. [2]
- (c) Using information from Source A, describe **two** reasons why the researcher chose to use snowball sampling. [4]
- (d) Describe **two** strengths of using focus groups in sociological research. [4]
- (e) Describe **two** strengths and **two** limitations of using field experiments in sociological research. [8]
- (f) Explain why longitudinal studies can be useful for sociological research. [10]
- (g) To what extent are official statistics useful for sociological research? [15]

Answer **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3

Section B: Culture, identity and socialisation

- 2 Children and young people have to learn how to behave in society. Negative sanctions are often used to teach children right from wrong and help to create value consensus in society. Sanctions have an important influence on lifestyles. However, societies are becoming more culturally diverse and definitions of masculinity and femininity continue to change.
- (a) What is meant by the term 'masculinity'? [2]
 - (b) Describe **two** sanctions used to control young people. [4]
 - (c) Explain how societies are culturally diverse. [6]
 - (d) Explain why traditional femininity is changing. [8]
 - (e) To what extent does value consensus exist in modern industrial societies? [15]

Section C: Social inequality

- 3 Some sociologists claim that the poor are caught in a poverty trap. Other sociologists argue that intergenerational social mobility is possible. Many governments try to help people in poverty by redistributing wealth. However, even with policies to make society more equal, some people still experience discrimination in the workplace, such as institutional racism.
- (a) What is meant by the term 'intergenerational social mobility'? [2]
 - (b) Describe **two** examples of vertical segregation in the workplace. [4]
 - (c) Explain how institutional racism affects individuals. [6]
 - (d) Explain why governments choose to redistribute wealth. [8]
 - (e) To what extent is it possible to escape the poverty trap? [15]

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