



### Section A: Research Methods

Interviews are a popular method used in sociological research. They are used mainly to investigate attitudes and opinions rather than frequency, amounts or trends. Qualitative data is likely to be produced.

Different types of interviews can be used, depending on the aims of the investigation. These may be structured, *semi-structured*, unstructured or group *interviews*. Interviews involve face-to-face interaction and are thought to produce more valid data than questionnaires. Interviews usually involve small samples and so it may be difficult to make *generalisations* from the research findings. A successful interview relies upon the skills and *objectivity* of the interviewer.

- 1 (a) What is meant by the following terms?
- (i) generalisations [2]
  - (ii) objectivity [2]
  - (iii) semi-structured interview [2]
- (b) Describe **two** reasons why the data collected using questionnaires may lack validity. [4]
- (c) Describe **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of using a random sampling method. [4]
- (d) Describe **one** strength and **one** limitation of longitudinal studies. [4]
- (e) Describe **two** ways in which an interviewer may affect the results of an interview. [4]
- (f) Describe **two** strengths and **two** limitations of using qualitative data in sociological research. [8]

### Section B: Culture and Socialisation

- 2 Sociologists believe that individuals get their identities through socialisation. We learn how we are expected to behave and are socially controlled to make sure that we conform.
- (a) What is meant by the term *socialisation*? [2]
  - (b) Describe **two** ways through which individuals are socialised into their gender identities. [4]
  - (c) Explain how formal social control leads to conformity in society. [6]
  - (d) To what extent are the experiences of young people influenced by social class? [8]
- 3 Each society has its own cultural differences. What is considered as 'normal' in one society is thus very different to what is seen to be 'normal' in another society.
- (a) What is meant by the term *cultural differences*? [2]
  - (b) Describe **two** differences between childhood and adulthood. [4]
  - (c) Explain how the behaviour of young people is socially controlled. [6]
  - (d) To what extent is gendered role behaviour dependent on the culture in which an individual lives? [8]

### Section C: Social Stratification and Inequality

- 4 Status can be either ascribed or achieved. Some groups have different status positions to other groups in society. Therefore, it is questionable whether equality exists in modern industrial societies.
- (a) What is meant by the term *ascribed status*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** ways in which status can be achieved. [4]
- (c) Explain how privileged groups maintain power in society. [6]
- (d) To what extent do we have equality of opportunity in modern industrial society? [8]
- 5 Systems of stratification exist in most societies. This often results in some social groups, such as ethnic minorities, having fewer life chances than others.
- (a) What is meant by the term *life chances*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** social groups, other than ethnic minorities, who may have limited life chances. [4]
- (c) Explain how some ethnic minorities may experience discrimination in society. [6]
- (d) To what extent does social mobility exist in modern industrial society? [8]

### Section D: Power and Authority

- 6 Different societies have different political systems, examples of which include democracy and authoritarian regimes.
- (a) What is meant by the term *authoritarian regimes*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** features of a democracy. [4]
- (c) Explain how authoritarian regimes maintain power. [6]
- (d) To what extent is democracy the dominant political system in modern industrial societies? [8]
- 7 Political socialisation occurs in many ways and can influence an individual's political views. However, political participation is declining in some modern industrial societies.
- (a) What is meant by the term *political socialisation*? [2]
- (b) Describe two influences on an individual's political views, apart from the media. [4]
- (c) Explain how pressure groups promote their views. [6]
- (d) To what extent do the media influence political views and voting behaviour? [8]

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