UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

CANDIDATE NAME	

CENTRE NUMBER						CANDIDATE NUMBER					

* 4 7 0 8 0 6 5 0 9 8 *

SOCIOLOGY **2251/12**

Paper 1 **October/November 2013**

2 hours 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 in the spaces provided.
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.
DO **NOT** WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

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.

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Section A: Research Methods

For Examiner's Use

1 Positivists prefer to use a scientific approach when studying society. They aim to gather data which they believe will help them uncover trends in society. Sociologists who favour the *interactionist perspective* prefer to gather qualitative data. Interactionists believe that this data is rich in insights into the reasons and motives that explain social actions.

The sociologist's theoretical perspective is usually the most important influence on their choice of research method. Once a research method has been chosen, it will be necessary to decide who will be included in the study group. There are a number of ways of selecting a sample group to study. These include random, stratified and cluster sampling.

The *sampling* process helps keep research projects at a manageable level. The sampling process may also influence the research method by which the data is collected. Provided that the sample is carefully chosen the results can be said to apply to a much larger population.

The evidence collected directly by a sociologist is known as primary data. Secondary data may also be used in sociological research. *Historical documents* are an example of secondary data.

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

(i) Interactionist perspective

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(ii) Sampling

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(iii) Historical documents

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(b) Describe **two** reasons for using a stratified sample in sociological research.

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(c) Describe **two** reasons for carrying out sociological research.

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(d) Describe **two** sources of secondary data, apart from historical documents.

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(e) Describe **two** reasons why qualitative data may be 'rich in insights into the reasons and motives that explain social actions'.

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(f) Describe **two** strengths and **two** limitations of using a scientific approach when studying society.

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Section B: Culture and Socialisation

For Examiner's Use

2 The experience of childhood is not the same in all societies. For example, some societies are more child-centred than others. This helps us to understand that childhood is a social construction.

(a) What is meant by the term social construction of childhood?

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(b) Describe **two** roles that a child may have in all societies.

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(c) Explain how children learn to interact with others through secondary socialisation.

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(d) To what extent are all societies becoming child-centred?

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For Examiner's Use

3 Value consensus refers to agreement about basic values. Functionalists believe that value consensus is important to society.

(a) What is meant by the term values?

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(b) Describe **two** reasons why value consensus may be important to society.

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(c) Explain what governments can do to try to eliminate social conflict.

For Examiner's Use

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(d) To what extent is there agreement about values in society?

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Section C: Social Stratification and Inequality

For Examiner's Use

4 Differences in the distribution of wealth may give rise to other forms of inequality in society. For example, people who are wealthy may have better access to health care than other people in the same society.

(a) What is meant by the term distribution of wealth?

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(b) Describe **two** examples of social inequality, apart from differences in access to health care.

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(c) Explain how an individual with a low social status can overcome the social inequality they experience.

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(d) To what extent does life expectancy reflect the distribution of wealth in society?

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For Examiner's Use

5 Industrialisation has brought about changes in patterns of work and employment. This has resulted in more opportunities for social mobility and achieved status.

(a) What is meant by the term achieved status?

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(b) Describe **two** ways of achieving upward social mobility.

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(c) Explain how the nature of work may be changed by the process of industrialisation.

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(d) To what extent does work in modern industrial societies provide job satisfaction?

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Section D: Power and Authority

For Examiner's Use

6 Pluralists believe that the state acts as a referee between competing pressure groups. There are many types of pressure groups. A distinction is often made between defensive and promotional pressure groups.

(a) What is meant by the term defensive pressure group?

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(b) Distinguish between insider and outsider pressure groups.

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(c) Explain how pressure groups try to influence the decisions of governments.

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(d) How far are pluralists correct in believing that the state acts as a referee between competing pressure groups?

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For Examiner's Use

7 One principle of democratic societies is that citizens are able to participate in the political process.

(a) What is meant by the term democratic societies?

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(b) Describe **two** types of political systems, apart from democracy.

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(c) Explain the processes by which government decisions are made in democratic societies.

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(d) To what extent do democratic systems reflect the will of the people?

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