SOCIOLOGY **2251/12**

Paper 1 **October/November 2014**

2 hours 30 minutes

No Additional Materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

An answer booklet is provided inside this question paper. You should follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

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.

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Section A: Research Methods

In their research, sociologists will often ask questions in order to find out information and test hypotheses. A popular method used for doing this is questionnaires or surveys. A questionnaire consists of a series of written questions that can be either open or closed. Positivist sociologists tend to prefer closed questions, whereas interpretivists will opt for open questions instead.

Using questionnaires means a large sample can be researched if a suitable sampling frame can be found. If a stratified sample is used, then representative data can be collected and generalisations can be made. Questionnaires typically produce quantitative data and in this way are similar to structured interviews and official statistics.

1 **(a)** What is meant by the following terms?

    (i) open questions [2]

    (ii) structured interview [2]

    (iii) sampling frame [2]

(b) Describe **one** strength and **one** limitation of using a large sample in sociological research. [4]

(c) Describe **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of using official statistics in sociological research. [4]

(d) Describe **two** types of survey used in sociology. [4]

(e) Describe **two** ways that questionnaires can be distributed. [4]

(f) Describe **two** strengths and **two** limitations of using questionnaires in sociological research. [8]

Section B: Culture and Socialisation

2 The way people behave in society is strongly influenced by the processes of socialisation and social control. Nurture is therefore thought by sociologists to be more important than nature.

(a) What is meant by the term *social control*? [2]

(b) Describe **two** examples of informal social control. [4]

(c) Explain why nurture is thought to be more important than nature in shaping the way people behave. [6]

(d) To what extent can it be argued that in modern industrial societies the media is the most important agency of socialisation? [8]

3 Sub-cultures exist in most societies and are particularly popular with young people.

(a) What is meant by the term *sub-culture*? [2]

(b) Describe **two** shared values. [4]

(c) Explain why sub-cultures are particularly popular with young people. [6]

(d) To what extent is primary socialisation more influential than secondary socialisation? [8]

Section C: Social Stratification and Inequality

4 Poverty, which can be absolute or relative, may affect some social groups more than others.

    (a) What is meant by the term *absolute poverty*? [2]

    (b) Describe **two** reasons why individuals may find themselves in a poverty trap. [4]

    (c) Explain why some social groups are more likely to experience poverty than others. [6]

    (d) To what extent is poverty a feature of modern industrial societies? [8]

5 In all societies individuals have different amounts of status depending upon their social class. Social class can also affect the job an individual does and their employment opportunities.

    (a) What is meant by the term *status*? [2]

    (b) Describe **two** examples of social classes. [4]

    (c) Explain how a person's employment opportunities may be affected by their social class. [6]

    (d) To what extent is de-skilling a feature of employment in modern industrial societies? [8]

Section D: Power and Authority

6 Suffrage is thought by many to be a source of power for individuals in society. How an individual votes is clearly influenced by their social characteristics.

    (a) What is meant by the term *suffrage*? [2]

    (b) Describe **two** consequences for women of getting the right to vote. [4]

    (c) Explain why political representation is thought by many to be biased and unrepresentative of society. [6]

    (d) To what extent do social characteristics such as gender, age, ethnicity and social class affect voting behaviour? [8]

7 Different societies have very different political systems. How power and authority are organised and distributed within these societies is a matter of debate.

    (a) What is meant by the term *authority*? [2]

    (b) Describe **two** features of a dictatorship. [4]

    (c) Explain how governments in a democracy try to stay in power and win votes. [6]

    (d) To what extent do you agree with the Pluralist view that power is widely distributed in democratic societies? [8]

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