



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education Advanced Subsidiary Level and Advanced Level

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SOCIOLOGY

9699/21

Paper 2 Principles and Methods 2

May/June 2013

1 hour 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.

DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

Answer **two** questions.

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

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

This document consists of **13** printed pages and **3** blank pages.



1 Values and *norms* are part of the culture of a society. They are learned and passed on through socialisation. Values and norms often differ between societies. They may also change over time and vary between social groups even in the same society. Norms that exist for a long time are known as customs. Customs are often expressed in the form of rituals. A marriage ceremony, for example, is a type of ritual that supports the customary practice of two people living together in a socially sanctioned union. Social change often leads to a situation in which many customs are no longer followed. Post-modernists have suggested that individual choice has become more important in modern industrial societies today and there is less emphasis on people following customs.

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

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.....[2]

(b) Describe **two** examples to show how values may change over time in a society.

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2 In 1927 a group of researchers set up an experiment in the Hawthorne plant of the Western Electricity Company. Their aim was to discover the factors affecting the productivity of the workers. Using a *control group* and an experimental group, variables such as room temperature, the strength of the lighting and the length of breaks were varied to test the effect on the workers. It was found that regardless of whether working conditions were improved or made worse, productivity usually increased. It appeared that the workers were responding to the knowledge that an experiment was taking place rather than to the variables being changed. The term 'Hawthorne effect' is now used in sociology to describe any situation in which the results of a study are influenced by the presence of the researcher. Interpretivists have pointed out that research findings may also be influenced by the values of the researchers, and this can happen regardless of the type of research method that is used.

(a) What is meant by the term *control group*?

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(b) Describe **two** problems in using experiments in sociological research, apart from the danger that the presence of the researcher may influence the results.

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3 Inequality in the distribution of income and *wealth* creates significant differences in life chances between people. Those who possess wealth will have control over their lives and will be able to participate fully in society. Those who live on low incomes and lack wealth are likely to be trapped in poverty. They will have little control over their lives and may be excluded from participating in many aspects of society. Although many believe that large differences in income and wealth have disappeared in modern industrial societies, research suggests that the opposite is the case, with the gap between the poor and the rich widening. High levels of poverty remain despite the existence of the welfare state and attempts by governments to redistribute wealth.

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

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(b) Describe **two** ways in which a person's life chances may be affected by their income.

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