UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

CANDIDATE NAME	

CENTRE NUMBER						CANDIDATE NUMBER					

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SOCIOLOGY **2251/12**

Paper 1 **October/November 2012**

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 **29** printed pages and **3** blank pages.

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Section A: Research Methods

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1 Positivist sociologists prefer quantitative methods of data collection. Quantitative data is often collected by means of a social survey in which the researcher gathers responses from questionnaires or structured interviews. Whichever method is used, the researcher has to identify a sample. However, the type of sample they choose will have a significant effect on the *validity* of the results obtained.

The researcher must also decide whether to carry out a pilot study. The results of a pilot study will enable plans to be reviewed and may help decide which sampling method to use. The variety of sampling methods available to the researcher is vast, including *random sampling*, quota sampling, stratified sampling and the rarely-used snowball sampling. Each of these types of sampling has strengths but with each there are limitations. However, the choice of sampling method will influence the outcome of the research, as will the accuracy of the *sampling frame*.

Other researchers reject quantitative research methods in favour of qualitative methods.

(a) What is meant by the following terms:

(i) Validity

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(ii) Random sampling

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(iii) Sampling frame

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(b) Explain **two** reasons why snowball sampling is rarely used.

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(c) Describe **two** reasons why questionnaires are a good method for collecting quantitative data.

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(d) Describe **one** strength and **one** limitation of using structured interviews to collect data.

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(e) Distinguish between stratified random sampling and quota sampling.

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(f) Describe **two** strengths and **two** limitations of using qualitative research methods in sociology.

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Section B: Culture and Socialisation

For Examiner's Use

2 There are different views about the factors that shape human behaviour. One view is that human nature is the main factor, while another view emphasises the importance of nurture.

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

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(b) Describe **two** ways in which a child can be nurtured.

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(c) Explain how behaviour may be shaped by human nature.

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(d) To what extent does nurture influence human behaviour?

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For Examiner's Use

3 Conflict theorists believe that social order is imposed through the use of coercion. However, functionalists argue that social order is achieved through shared values.

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

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(b) Describe **two** agencies that have the power to use coercion.

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(c) Explain the ways through which people learn to follow the norms and values of society.

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(d) To what extent is social order based on shared values?

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Section C: Social Stratification and Inequality

For Examiner's Use

4 Marxist sociologists have suggested that modern industrial societies have undergone a process of proletarianisation, through which white-collar work has become deskilled. Deskilling has also occurred amongst blue-collar workers.

(a) What is meant by the term *blue-collar workers*?

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(b) Describe **two** examples of deskilling.

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(c) Explain why some types of employment are more likely to experience deskilling.

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(d) Assess the extent to which proletarianisation has occurred.

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For Examiner's Use

5 Stratification continues to be a feature of almost all societies, though there may be less inequality in modern industrial societies than in traditional societies. Social class is the basis of stratification in modern industrial societies, and in some of these societies an aristocracy remains part of the class system.

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

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(b) Describe **two** examples of social inequality.

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(c) Explain how an individual can change their social class position.

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(d) To what extent has there been a reduction in social inequality in modern industrial societies in recent years?

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Section D: Power and Authority

For Examiner's Use

6 It has been claimed that, even in democratic political systems, elite groups control the power of the state.

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

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(b) Describe **two** political systems.

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(c) Explain what means the state uses in exercising its power.

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(d) To what extent do elite groups dominate all political systems?

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For Examiner's Use

7 It is claimed that class de-alignment has occurred in some modern industrial societies and that this is affecting voting behaviour. In these societies the concept of political socialisation would seem irrelevant.

(a) What is meant by the term *class de-alignment*?

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(b) Describe **two** influences on voting behaviour, apart from social class.

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(c) Explain the role of political socialisation in the political process.

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(d) To what extent has class de-alignment occurred in modern industrial societies?

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