
SOCIOLOGY

9699/22

Paper 2 Theory and Methods

February/March 2019

1 hour 30 minutes

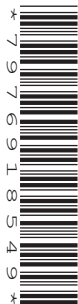
No Additional Materials are required.

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 **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

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



This document consists of **2** printed pages, **2** blank pages and **1** Insert.

Section A

Answer Question 1.

Social surveys seek to collect information from a wide range of people. To achieve this, researchers will choose what they consider to be a suitable sampling technique to select a sample.

Social surveys usually use a sampling technique which aims for a highly representative sample, such as a stratified sample. Other research methods may use a sampling technique, such as a snowball sample, to select a particular group of people who may not be representative of the wider population. Sociologists use a variety of random and non-random sampling techniques. Social surveys usually collect quantitative data. Sociologists consider quantitative research methods to be high in *reliability*. Interpretivists, however, argue that the data produced may lack validity.

- 1 (a) What is meant by the term *reliability*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** factors that affect the choice of research method. [4]
- (c) Explain why researchers are careful to select a suitable sampling technique when carrying out large scale social surveys. [8]
- (d) Assess interpretivist arguments against the use of quantitative research methods. [11]

Section B

Answer **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

- 2 'Official statistics are of limited use as a source of sociological evidence.' Explain and assess this view. [25]
- 3 'Structuralist theories offer the best understanding of the relationship between the individual and society.' Explain and assess this view. [25]

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