
SOCIOLOGY

9699/23

Paper 2 Theory and Methods

May/June 2016

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.

- 1 There are two types of explanation of social order. One focuses on the role of shared norms and values in maintaining cohesion in society. Parsons, for example, argued that social order is created through the process of socialisation whereby people come to internalise the same views about what is acceptable behaviour. It follows that social order largely depends on people fulfilling the roles they have learnt to play in a given situation. For example, teachers and pupils, or workers and managers, are expected to behave in accordance with these roles.

Another explanation of social order suggests that weaker social groups are pressured into accepting the rules of society by the powerful. In this view, society is based on conflict rather than consensus. For Marxists, in particular, the state plays a key role in maintaining social control through the exercise of force and the influence of ruling class *ideology*.

- (a) What is meant by the term *ideology*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** reasons why workers generally conform to their expected roles. [4]
- (c) Explain the Marxist view of how the state maintains social control. [8]
- (d) Assess the view that the functionalist theory of social order overestimates the amount of consensus in society. [11]

Section B

Answer **either** question 2 **or** question 3.

- 2 'Individual behaviour is too unpredictable for it to be studied scientifically.' Explain and assess this claim. [25]
- 3 'Qualitative methods should not be used in sociological research because they lack reliability.' Explain and assess this view. [25]

BLANK PAGE

BLANK PAGE

Permission to reproduce items where third-party owned material protected by copyright is included has been sought and cleared where possible. Every reasonable effort has been made by the publisher (UCLES) to trace copyright holders, but if any items requiring clearance have unwittingly been included, the publisher will be pleased to make amends at the earliest possible opportunity.

To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced online in the Cambridge International Examinations Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download at www.cie.org.uk after the live examination series.

Cambridge International Examinations is part of the Cambridge Assessment Group. Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which is itself a department of the University of Cambridge.