
SOCIOLOGY

9699/22

Paper 2 Theory and Methods

October/November 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 is disagreement within sociology about the most appropriate way to do sociological research. Firstly, there are those who carry out research in a broadly scientific way, collecting data that can be used to test a *hypothesis*. In this way, they seek to explain the causes and functions of social phenomena, such as rates of divorce and levels of educational achievement. The research methods used are quantitative.

Sociologists who disagree with this approach believe that it is mistaken to see the social world as involving the same subject matter as the natural world that scientists investigate. It follows that the social world cannot be studied in the same way as the natural world. As a result, these sociologists are much more likely to use qualitative research methods. However, this approach has been criticised. For example, it is questioned how far sociologists are able to understand other people's behaviour objectively.

- (a) What is meant by the term *hypothesis*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** qualitative research methods. [4]
- (c) Explain the problems that a sociologist may face in seeking to understand other people's behaviour. [8]
- (d) Assess the strengths and limitations of adopting a scientific approach to sociological research. [11]

Section B

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

- 2 'Sociological studies that are based on observational methods will always produce more interesting findings than those that use questionnaires.' Explain and assess this view. [25]
- 3 'Functionalists exaggerate how far people's behaviour is controlled by external social forces.' Explain and assess this view. [25]

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