
SOCIOLOGY

9699/22

Paper 2 Theory and Methods

October/November 2018

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** Before beginning their research, sociologists need to make key decisions about research design. These include which research method to use, whether to use a non-representative or a *representative sample* and whether to conduct a pilot study. A pilot study involves conducting research on some members of the survey population before the full study takes place. Sometimes researchers use more than one research method. This is known as methodological pluralism and there are a number of reasons why a sociologist might use this approach.

Choices about research design will be shaped by the theoretical perspective of the researcher. For example, interpretivists and positivists may make different research choices because they hold different views about the nature of sociology. Practical factors may also have an influence on research design.

- (a) What is meant by the term *representative sample*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** reasons why a researcher might use a pilot study. [4]
- (c) Explain why a sociologist might use more than one method in their research. [8]
- (d) Assess the importance of practical factors in shaping a sociologist's research design. [11]

Section B

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

- 2** 'The data collected using questionnaires has little value in sociology compared to the data collected using unstructured interviews.' Explain and assess this view. [25]
- 3** 'Human behaviour is more complex and varied than the functionalist theory suggests.' Explain and assess this view. [25]

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