
SOCIOLOGY

9699/22

Paper 2 Theory and Methods

October/November 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.

- 1** In sociological research there is a distinction between *primary data* and secondary data. Both types of data may be quantitative or qualitative. Secondary data is information that has been gathered by another individual or an organisation and used by a sociologist to carry out their research. Official statistics are an example of a quantitative secondary source of data that sociologists may make use of. Official statistics are collected by governments and provide important statistical evidence of social trends such as changes in birth rates, crime levels, educational achievement and rates of marriage. In the UK, the government conducts a national census on the whole population every 10 years and this provides statistical evidence that sociologists may use as a secondary source of data.

Positivists see official statistics as a useful secondary source which can provide reliable data. However, interpretivists argue that quantitative research data lacks validity. For this reason they are more likely to use qualitative secondary sources of data, such as diaries and private letters.

- (a) What is meant by the term *primary data*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** reasons why official statistics may lack validity. [4]
- (c) Explain why positivists think official statistics are a useful source of data. [8]
- (d) Assess the strengths of using qualitative secondary sources in sociological research. [11]

Section B

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

- 2** 'The topics sociologists choose to study should reflect the values they hold and the people they want to help.' Explain and assess this view. [25]
- 3** 'Interactionist accounts of the relationship between the individual and society have more strengths than limitations.' Explain and assess this view. [25]

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