UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

SOCIOLOGY	**0495/01**
Paper 1	**May/June 2008**
	2 hours 30 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.
Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen.
You may use a soft pencil for any diagrams, graphs or rough working.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer Question 1 and **three** questions from Sections **B** to **D**.
At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.
The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.

This document consists of **4** printed pages.

UNIVERSITY *of* CAMBRIDGE
International Examinations

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Section A: Research Methods

In sociological research quantitative data is often collected. One of the major ways of collecting such primary data is by using questionnaires. A questionnaire is a list of questions. The questions are decided in advance and then a sample of people is selected to answer the questionnaire. Questions are of two types: closed and open-ended. Researchers will test their questions by means of a pilot study.

A questionnaire is often chosen over other research methods of data collection because it produces data which is comparable. Questionnaires are also said to produce reliable data because the results obtained can be checked by other researchers using the same questions.

In contrast, qualitative data is collected by sociologists who are interested in studying human interactions and the meanings individuals attach to social situations. They are likely to use unstructured interviews and various forms of observation to gather relevant data.

1 (a) In sociological research, the following terms are used. Briefly explain the meaning of each:

    (i) primary data [2]

    (ii) closed questions [2]

    (iii) pilot study. [2]

(b) Describe **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of using closed questions in questionnaires. [4]

(c) Describe **two** methods of selecting a sample when conducting research. [4]

(d) Describe **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of using interviews in sociological research. [4]

(e) Suggest **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of using **qualitative** data in sociological research. [4]

(f) Identify and explain **two** advantages and **two** disadvantages of using postal questionnaires. [8]

Section B: Culture and Socialisation

2   As children interact with others they develop a sense of identity. This is part of the process of primary socialisation.

   (a) What is meant by the term *primary socialisation*?   [2]

   (b) Briefly describe **two** ways in which individuals learn about their society.   [4]

   (c) Explain how children learn to interact effectively with other people.   [6]

   (d) Why is socialisation important both for the individual **and** society?   [8]

3   A person's behaviour is influenced by formal social controls.

   (a) What is meant by the term *formal social controls*?   [2]

   (b) Describe **two** examples of **informal** social controls that may occur within the family.   [4]

   (c) Explain how **formal** social control is carried out in modern industrial societies.   [6]

   (d) To what extent do the more powerful groups in society benefit most from social control?   [8]

Section C: Social Stratification and Inequality

4   Despite improvements in many aspects of women's lives, feminists still believe that women suffer gender inequality.

   (a) What is meant by the term *gender inequality*?   [2]

   (b) Describe **two** ways women may be disadvantaged by their roles within the family.   [4]

   (c) Explain why women may still find it difficult to gain promotion at work.   [6]

   (d) To what extent are women still disadvantaged in society compared to the past?   [8]

5   Poverty still remains a feature of all societies, though less industrialised societies are more likely to experience absolute poverty.

   (a) What is meant by the term *absolute poverty*?   [2]

   (b) Describe **two** reasons why absolute poverty continues to exist in less industrialised societies.
                                                                                                              [4]

   (c) Explain how an individual may escape from poverty.   [6]

   (d) To what extent is poverty caused by the individual's way of life?   [8]

Section D: Power and Authority

6 In democratic political systems regular elections are held.

    (a) What is meant by the term *democratic political system*? [2]

    (b) Describe **two** functions of elections. [4]

    (c) Explain how pressure groups influence decision-making in democratic systems. [6]

    (d) To what extent can individuals influence government decision-making in modern democracies? [8]

7 In modern democratic societies political socialisation occurs in a number of ways.

    (a) What is meant by the term *political socialisation*? [2]

    (b) Describe **two** ways a person might form their political views. [4]

    (c) Explain how a person's social class may influence their political views. [6]

    (d) What factors influence a person's voting behaviour? [8]