



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
General Certificate of Education Advanced Subsidiary Level and Advanced Level

---

**SOCIOLOGY**

**9699/12**

Paper 1 Principles and Methods 1

**May/June 2012**

**1 hour 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.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

There are three sections in this paper: Section A, Section B and Section C. Choose **two** of these sections and answer **one** question from **each** of the sections you have chosen.

You may use a soft pencil for any diagrams, graphs or rough working.

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 **2** printed pages.



Answer **two** questions, each from a different section.

### Section A: The Sociological Perspective

- 1 “Functionalist theorists have exaggerated the amount of consensus in society.” Explain and assess this view. [25]
- 2 Assess the *realist* theory that there are more similarities than differences between sociology and the natural sciences. [25]

### Section B: Sociological Methods

- 3 “Official statistics provide a distorted picture of social reality. For this reason, they have little value in sociological research.” Explain and assess this view. [25]
- 4 “Much can go wrong when carrying out *covert* participant observation. The risks with this research method outweigh the rewards.” Explain and assess this claim. [25]

### Section C: Social Differentiation and Stratification

- 5 “Post-modernist writers have exposed the weaknesses in traditional sociological theories of class.” Explain and assess this view. [25]
- 6 “In modern industrial societies, the poor are trapped in poverty by their dependence on welfare benefits.” Explain and assess this view. [25]

---

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.

University of 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.