
SOCIOLOGY

Paper 1 The Family

9699/11

May/June 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 Sociologists accept the idea that age and the process of growing older are linked to both biological and social processes. The number of people aged 65 and over has risen rapidly in modern industrial societies and this trend is expected to continue. In many countries, there are now more older people than children in the population. These changes leading to an ageing population will have significant implications both for family life and society. As this happens our understanding of what it means to belong to particular age groups and family relationships will change.

In order to understand the process of growing older, it is necessary to study the social context in which it occurs. From this perspective age can be seen as a *social construction*.

- (a) What is meant by the term *social construction*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** problems for society of an ageing population. [4]
- (c) Explain why the status of older people may vary between societies. [8]
- (d) Assess the extent to which age is the most significant social division within the family. [11]

Section B

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

- 2 Explain and assess the view that in modern industrial societies the nuclear family continues to be the dominant family type. [25]
- 3 Explain and assess the view that in modern industrial societies the family no longer serves the needs of the economy. [25]

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