
SOCIOLOGY

9699/21

Paper 2 Theory and Methods

May/June 2014

1 hour 30 minutes

No Additional Materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

An answer booklet is provided inside the 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.

Many sociologists prefer to use a method that produces quantitative data. Examples of quantitative data include school examination results, how many people get married in a given year and the proportion of the population over 65 years of age. Postal questionnaires are a type of research method that produces quantitative data. With the use of this method questions are sent to respondents along with a request for the completed questionnaire to be returned to the researcher. Usually most of the questions are closed or pre-coded and this will allow the researcher to measure whether or not there are *correlations*.

The construction and design of a questionnaire requires that the sociologist takes great care. One basic idea associated with questionnaires is that all respondents should be presented with the same questions in the same order; another key feature is that once the survey has begun the questionnaire cannot be changed.

- 1 (a) What is meant by the term *correlations*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** reasons why a sociologist might choose to use a **postal** questionnaire in sociological research. [4]
- (c) Explain the factors that a researcher should take into consideration when designing a questionnaire. [8]
- (d) Assess the strengths and limitations of using questionnaires in sociological research. [11]

Section B

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

- 2 'Whilst individuals operate within the constraints of the social structure, that structure may also be changed through their actions and choices.' Explain and assess this view. [25]
- 3 'Feminist theory no longer has any relevance for understanding modern industrial societies.' Explain and assess this view. [25]

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