
SOCIOLOGY

Paper 2 Theory and Methods

9699/21

May/June 2018

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.



Section A

Answer Question 1.

- 1 There are two types of experiment used by sociologists to conduct research: laboratory and field experiments. Both types of experiment can be used to test a *hypothesis*. Laboratory experiments take place under controlled conditions. In these experiments, a researcher typically takes two groups with similar social characteristics and subjects them to different experiences. An example of this approach is Bandura's study of the effects on young people of observing violent behaviour. Field experiments are similar but take place in normal social conditions. Rosenthal and Jacobson used this approach to examine how teacher expectations affect pupil performance in schools.

Positivists favour the use of experiments because they involve a scientific approach to research and collect mainly quantitative data. Interpretivists, on the other hand, are critical of both laboratory and field experiments. They identify a range of practical, ethical and theoretical problems with their use.

- (a) What is meant by the term *hypothesis*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** reasons why a researcher may choose a laboratory experiment rather than a field experiment. [4]
- (c) Explain why positivists are in favour of methods that use a scientific approach. [8]
- (d) Assess arguments against the use of experiments in sociological research. [11]

Section B

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

- 2 'The values of the sociologist will inevitably affect their research.' Explain and assess this view. [25]
- 3 Explain and assess the interactionist view that individuals are free to choose their own social roles. [25]

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