

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

SOCIOLOGY

2251/02

Paper 2

October/November 2005

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

1 hour 45 minutes

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 on both sides of the paper.
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 any **three** questions.

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.

Section A: Family

- 1 The functions performed by the family in modern industrial societies are different to some from those carried out by the family in traditional societies.
- (a) What is meant by the term *traditional society*? [2]
 - (b) Describe **two** functions that are carried out by the family in all societies. [4]
 - (c) Explain how the functions performed by the family have changed as societies have modernised. [6]
 - (d) To what extent are families in modern industrial societies still as important as they were in the past? [8]
- 2 Marriage can take two different forms: monogamy and polygamy. Monogamy is widely practised in modern industrial societies. In most of these societies there has been a sharp decrease in first marriages and an increase in remarriages in recent years.
- (a) What is meant by the term *monogamy*? [2]
 - (b) Describe **two** reasons why polygamy is the main form of marriage in some societies. [4]
 - (c) Explain why the number of first marriages has been steadily declining in many modern industrial societies in recent years. [6]
 - (d) Assess the evidence that marriage is far less important than it used to be in modern industrial societies. [8]

Section B: Education

- 3 Formal education is provided mainly by schools and colleges. An important function of schools and colleges in modern industrial societies is to provide young people with the skills and training they need for work. For children in many less industrialised countries, however, skills are often learned mainly through informal systems of education.
- (a) What is meant by the term *informal education*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** functions performed by schools and colleges apart from preparing young people for work. [4]
- (c) Explain why skills are learned mainly through informal education in less industrialised societies. [6]
- (d) How far, and in what ways, do schools and colleges prepare young people for work? [8]
- 4 Children from some ethnic minority groups underachieve at school. This may be due to factors related to both the home background and the school.
- (a) What is meant by the term *ethnic minority*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** ways in which home background may influence a child's chances of being successful at school. [4]
- (c) Explain how the peer group may influence the educational performance of many young people. [6]
- (d) How far, and in what ways, can the poor educational performance of some ethnic minorities be explained in terms of the influence of schools and teachers? [8]

Section C: Crime, Deviance and Social Control

- 5 The processes of social control may be *formal* or *informal*. Social control is mostly important in small scale, tribal societies.
- (a) What is meant by *social control*? [2]
 - (b) Describe the difference between *formal* and *informal* social control. [4]
 - (c) Explain how social control is maintained in small scale, tribal societies. [6]
 - (d) To what extent does social control serve the interests of the most powerful groups in any society? [8]
- 6 Official crime statistics suggest that rates of juvenile delinquency are much higher in inner city areas. Young working class males are responsible for a high proportion of the recorded crime in modern industrial societies.
- (a) What is meant by the term *juvenile delinquency*? [2]
 - (b) Suggest **two** reasons why rates of juvenile delinquency are much higher in inner city areas. [4]
 - (c) Explain why young working class males are responsible for a high proportion of the recorded crime in modern industrial societies. [6]
 - (d) To what extent do official statistics provide an accurate record of the amount of crime in society? [8]

Section D: The Mass Media

- 7 Sociologists disagree about how much influence the mass media have in shaping attitudes and behaviour.
- (a) What is meant by the term *mass media*? [2]
 - (b) Describe **two** examples of how information and ideas were communicated before the introduction of the mass media. [4]
 - (c) In what ways may the mass media influence the attitudes and behaviour of young people? [6]
 - (d) What explanations have been offered for the ways that the mass media influence behaviour? [8]
- 8 Journalists work with a concept of *newsworthiness*. This is an important factor influencing the content and the presentation of the news.
- (a) What is meant by the term *newsworthiness*? [2]
 - (b) Describe **two** factors that influence the content of the news apart from the concept of newsworthiness. [4]
 - (c) Explain why news reports may contain bias. [6]
 - (d) How far do you agree that the mass media are able to change and shape political attitudes? [8]

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