



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

CANDIDATE
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SOCIOLOGY

2251/23

Paper 2

October/November 2012

1 hour 45 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

No Additional Materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

DO **NOT** WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

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

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

You may not need all the answer lines for your answer.

Answer any **three** questions.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

This document consists of **33** printed pages and **3** blank pages.



Section A: Family

For
Examiner's
Use

- 1 Official statistics provide a useful insight into the patterns of marriage and divorce in modern industrial societies.

(a) What is meant by the term *marriage*?

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..... [2]

(b) Describe **two** reasons why the marriage rate has fallen in recent years.

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..... [4]

(c) Explain some of the reasons for the rising divorce rate in modern industrial societies.

For
Examiner's
Use

[6]

For
Examiner's
Use

[8]

2 Functionalists argue that the family plays a major role in primary socialisation.

For
Examiner's
Use

(a) What is meant by the term *primary socialisation*?

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..... [2]

(b) Describe **two** ways, apart from primary socialisation, in which families contribute to the well-being of their members.

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..... [4]

For
Examiner's
Use

[6]

(d) To what extent have the functions of the family been taken over by the state in modern industrial societies?

For
Examiner's
Use

[illegible]

Section B: Education

For
Examiner's
Use

- 3 While home factors may influence a pupil's educational achievement, school factors may be a more important influence.

(a) What is meant by the term *home factors*?

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..... [2]

(b) Describe **two** school factors that may influence educational achievement.

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..... [4]

For
Examiner's
Use

[6]

(d) Assess the view that school factors are the main influence on educational achievement.

For
Examiner's
Use

[illegible]

For
Examiner's
Use

[8]

- 4 In modern industrial societies some parents prefer to send their children to schools which operate outside of the state school system. These are known as independent or private schools.

For
Examiner's
Use

(a) What is meant by the *state school system*?

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..... [2]

(b) Describe **two** advantages of independent schools.

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..... [4]

(c) Explain why some parents choose to send their children to state schools.

For
Examiner's
Use

..... [6]

(d) Assess the view that independent schools help to maintain an unfair education system.

For
Examiner's
Use

[illegible]

Section C: Crime, Deviance and Social Control

For
Examiner's
Use

- 5 There are three main approaches to the study of crime: biological, psychological and sociological explanations.

(a) What is meant by the term *biological explanations*?

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..... [2]

(b) Describe **two** psychological explanations for crime.

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..... [4]

(c) Explain the differences between psychological and sociological explanations of crime.

For
Examiner's
Use

..... [6]

For
Examiner's
Use

[illegible]

For
Examiner's
Use

[8]

- 6 Sociologists argue that self-report studies and victim surveys provide a more accurate view of the extent of crime than official crime statistics.

For
Examiner's
Use

(a) What is meant by the term *self-report studies*?

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..... [2]

(b) Describe **two** problems that may arise when carrying out victim surveys.

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..... [4]

For
Examiner's
Use

..... [6]

For
Examiner's
Use

[illegible]

For
Examiner's
Use

[8]

Section D: The Mass Media

For
Examiner's
Use

- 7 The mass media influences the political process in a number of ways including through their contribution to political socialisation. The mass media is often the main source of information to the public about politics and politicians.

(a) What is meant by the term *political process*?

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..... [2]

(b) Describe **two** ways in which the mass media can influence the results of a general election.

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..... [4]

(c) Explain some of the factors which influence the content of the news.

For
Examiner's
Use

[6]

(d) Assess the view that the mass media is the main factor influencing voting behaviour.

For
Examiner's
Use

[illegible]

For
Examiner's
Use

[8]

- 8 The mass media often use stereotypes that are gender specific. These stereotypes may help to maintain gender inequalities.

For
Examiner's
Use

(a) What is meant by the term *gender specific*?

.....

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..... [2]

(b) Describe **two** male gender stereotypes that may be used by the mass media.

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..... [4]

For
Examiner's
Use

..... [6]

For
Examiner's
Use

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