

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

SOCIOLOGY

0495/04

Paper 4 Alternative to Coursework

May/June 2003

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

1 hour 30 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, music or rough working.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **all** 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.

CONFORMITY, DEVIANCE AND SOCIAL CONTROL

The Extent of Crime and Links with Poverty

The questions in this paper are based on four pieces of evidence about the extent and distribution of crime among different social groups, including the possible links between poverty and crime. Read all four sources carefully before answering the questions that follow.

SOURCE A

Crime Statistics

Statistics collected by the government are one type of secondary data available to sociologists. But statistics need to be interpreted carefully. Official crime statistics, for example, present only a partial picture of the extent of crime in society.

SOURCE B

Sure it is true that most people who are convicted of property crimes are poor and working class. But there is also a lot of stealing and fraud among the middle class – the only difference is that they usually get away with it! Sociologists call this white-collar crime. Stealing things from the office where you work is an example of white-collar crime. Avoiding paying taxes by giving false statements to the government about your income and wealth is another crime that better-off people may commit.

SOURCE C

There is a lot of street crime in the city where I live. Young men of my age mostly commit it. I wanted to understand how these gangs operate and what motivates them, so I decided to conduct some sociological research. The method I chose was participant observation. Hiding my true identity, I joined one of the gangs and studied their activities from the ‘inside’.

SOURCE D

The community where I live is very poor and there is much crime. Mostly it is stealing. Those who commit these crimes are not bad people; it is just that life is hard for them and there are few opportunities to earn a living without breaking the law. Not all of the people steal though. Some try very hard to live respectable lives, taking any jobs they can find or going without the things they need if they have no money to pay for them. They think it is a disgrace to steal and they wouldn’t do it under any circumstances.

3

Answer **all** of the following questions.

- 1 In sociological research, what is
 - (i) *secondary data*
 - (ii) *participant observation*[2]
- 2 Describe **two** advantages and **two** disadvantages of using secondary data in sociological research. [4]
- 3 Give **three** reasons why a sociologist may find it difficult to obtain accurate information about the amount of white-collar crime in a society. [3]
- 4 Give **three** possible ethical issues raised by the research in Source C. [3]
- 5 Identify **four** possible causes of bias or inaccuracy in participant observation as a method of sociological research. [4]
- 6 Read all of the sources carefully.

Describe how you would carry out a sociological investigation into the links between poverty and crime in your society.

You should include:

- (i) a description of the methods and samples you would use; [3]
- (ii) the reasons for your choice of methods and samples; [3]
- (iii) any problems you may face in your investigation; [3]
- (iv) how you would present your findings. [3]

[Total: 30]

