



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

SOCIOLOGY

2251/02

Paper 2

May/June 2008

1 hour 45 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

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.

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.



This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.



Section A: Family

- 1 It is often said that the nuclear family is the most common type of family unit in modern industrial societies. However many different types of families exist alongside of each other.
- (a) What is meant by the term the *nuclear family*? [2]
 - (b) Describe **two** other types of family unit. [4]
 - (c) Explain why family units in traditional societies tend to be large. [6]
 - (d) How far is the nuclear family in decline in modern industrial societies? [8]
- 2 Despite rising divorce rates marriage remains a popular institution in modern industrial societies.
- (a) What is meant by the term *divorce*? [2]
 - (b) Describe **two** other forms of marital breakdown. [4]
 - (c) Explain why divorce rates are so high in modern industrial societies. [6]
 - (d) In modern industrial societies, how far are marriages based on equal relations between partners? [8]

Section B: Education

- 3 In most modern industrial societies girls are now outperforming boys at school. This is an example of how gender divisions within education have changed.
- (a) What is meant by the term *gender*? [2]
 - (b) Describe **two** reasons why boys outperformed girls in the past. [4]
 - (c) Describe how boys and girls may be treated differently within the education system. [6]
 - (d) Explain why girls are now achieving better examination results than boys in many subjects. [8]
- 4 Factors from both home background and school can influence the educational performance of some ethnic minority groups.
- (a) What is meant by the term *ethnic minority*? [2]
 - (b) Describe **two** ways in which home background may influence a child's school performance. [4]
 - (c) Explain how the peer group may influence the educational achievement of young people. [6]
 - (d) To what extent can the poor educational performance of some ethnic minorities be explained by the influence of teachers and schools? [8]

Section C: Crime, Deviance and Social Control

- 5 There are some groups in society who are more likely to be labelled deviant.
- (a) What is meant by the term *deviant*? [2]
 - (b) Describe **two** groups in society who are likely to be labelled as deviant. [4]
 - (c) Explain why some groups in society are more likely to have the power to label others as deviant. [6]
 - (d) Once a group has been labelled deviant, what are the likely consequences for them? [8]
- 6 Official crime statistics can be misleading and open to interpretation. One reason for this is the existence of the so-called dark figure.
- (a) What is meant by the term the *dark figure*? [2]
 - (b) Describe **two** reasons why people fail to report crimes to the police. [4]
 - (c) Why do white-collar crimes often go unrecorded? [6]
 - (d) How far, and in what ways, may the activities of the police influence official crime statistics? [8]

Section D: The Mass Media

- 7 The mass media often stereotype groups and individuals, this is particularly true in the case of gender identities.
- (a) What is meant by the term *stereotype*? [2]
 - (b) Describe **two** examples of how the media use stereotypes. [4]
 - (c) Explain how the mass media help to reinforce the division of roles between males and females. [6]
 - (d) How far, and in what ways, does the mass media influence the lifestyles of young people? [8]
- 8 An important factor which influences the content and presentation of the news is the concept of newsworthiness.
- (a) What is meant by the term *newsworthiness*? [2]
 - (b) Describe **two** other factors that influence the content of the news. [4]
 - (c) Explain why news reports may contain bias. [6]
 - (d) How far, and in what ways, are the mass media able to shape and change political attitudes? [8]

