



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
General Certificate of Education Advanced Subsidiary Level and Advanced Level

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**SOCIOLOGY**

**9699/12**

Paper 1 Principles and Methods 1

**October/November 2011**

**1 hour 30 minutes**

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

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**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.

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

There are three sections in this paper: Section A, Section B and Section C. Choose **two** of these sections and answer **one** question from **each** of the sections you have chosen.

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.

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This document consists of **2** printed pages.



Answer **two** questions, each from a different section.

### **Section A: The Sociological Perspective**

- 1 “Ideology is the most important factor in explaining social order.” Explain and assess this claim. [25]
- 2 “Interpretivist approaches to the study of society have more strengths than limitations.” Explain and assess this view. [25]

### **Section B: Sociological Methods**

- 3 “Quantitative research methods have more strengths and fewer limitations than qualitative research methods.” Explain and assess this claim. [25]
- 4 “With the exception of official statistics, most secondary data is too subjective to be of use in sociological research.” Explain and assess this claim. [25]

### **Section C: Social Differentiation and Stratification**

- 5 “Everyone has an equal chance of achieving high social status and reward in modern industrial societies.” Explain and assess this claim. [25]
- 6 “Marxist theory is of little use in understanding social class divisions today.” Explain and assess this view. [25]

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