

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

**SOCIOLOGY**

**2251/01**

Paper 1

October/November 2003

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

**2 hours 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 **four** 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 4 printed pages.



Answer **any** four questions

- 1 People learn how they are expected to behave in society through interaction with other human beings. This is a life-long process of learning.
- (a) What is the sociological term that describes how people learn their roles in society? [2]
  - (b) Why are interactions with other human beings so important for people in learning how to behave in society? [6]
  - (c) What pressures may be placed on people to conform to the rules of society? [6]
  - (d) Why is social learning a life-long process? [6]
- 2 What is seen to be 'normal' behaviour may differ between cultures and across times. There are, for example, cultural and historical differences in conceptions of childhood and adolescence.
- (a) What is meant by the term *culture*? [2]
  - (b) In what ways may conceptions of childhood differ between cultures? [6]
  - (c) What social factors may lead to changes in conceptions of 'normal' behaviour across time? [6]
  - (d) Who defines what is normal behaviour in a society? [6]
- 3 Racism often exists in societies where the majority population develop stereotypes of minority ethnic groups and discriminate against them.
- (a) What is meant by the term *stereotypes*? [2]
  - (b) In what ways may some minority ethnic groups be stereotyped? [6]
  - (c) What social factors may lead to racism? [6]
  - (d) What social consequences may result from racial discrimination? [6]
- 4 Some sections of society have more power and influence than others. For example, members of the professions have the power to 'define the situation' in many areas of social life, such as teaching, medicine, and the law.
- (a) What is meant by the term '*define the situation*'? [2]
  - (b) Why do some sections of society have more power and influence than others? [6]
  - (c) In what ways may teachers define the situation for their pupils? [6]
  - (d) What means are available to powerful groups in society to impose their definitions of the situation on other groups? [6]

- 5 Subcultures exist in many societies and play an important part in the way individuals develop a sense of identity. However, people often belong to more than one subculture and have several social identities.
- (a) What is meant by the term *subcultures*? [2]
  - (b) Choose an example of a subculture and describe its main features. [6]
  - (c) In what ways may a person develop a sense of identity through being part of a subculture? [6]
  - (d) What problems may an individual face in having several social identities? [6]
- 6 Many modern industrial societies in recent years have experienced a decline in manufacturing jobs and an increase in employment in the tertiary sector. This has important social consequences.
- (a) What is meant by the term *tertiary sector*? [2]
  - (b) Why has there been a decline in manufacturing jobs in modern industrial societies? [6]
  - (c) How far has the change from manufacturing to tertiary sector employment affected the class structure of modern industrial societies? [6]
  - (d) To what extent does employment in the tertiary sector offer more job satisfaction than working in a factory? [6]
- 7 Absolute poverty is rare in modern industrial societies, though it is widespread in many less industrialised societies. The poverty that exists in the richer countries is mainly 'relative'.
- (a) Distinguish between *absolute* and *relative* poverty. [2]
  - (b) Why is absolute poverty rare in modern industrial societies? [6]
  - (c) Which groups are likely to experience poverty in modern industrial societies? [6]
  - (d) What social factors lead to poverty? [6]
- 8 There are social elites in most countries. Having the right family connections usually makes it easier to become a member of the elite.
- (a) What is meant by the term *social elite*? [2]
  - (b) How may the right family connections help a person become a member of a social elite? [6]
  - (c) Why are people who belong to a social elite often very wealthy? [6]
  - (d) To what extent is political power controlled by elite groups in modern industrial societies? [6]

- 9** Discrimination on the grounds of gender is illegal in most modern industrial societies. However, women are often disadvantaged in terms of earnings and job conditions.
- (a) What is meant by the term *discrimination*? [2]
  - (b) In what ways are women discriminated against in employment? [6]
  - (c) What reasons may an employer have for discriminating against female employees? [6]
  - (d) What action might women take to improve their chances of achieving equality with men at work? [6]
- 10** Most modern industrial societies have democratic systems of government that are supposed to represent fairly the interests of all the citizens. The government also tries to protect the living standards of poorer people in these societies.
- (a) What is meant by the term *democracy*? [2]
  - (b) In what ways are citizens represented in the political process in democratic systems of government? [6]
  - (c) To what extent do governments in modern industrial societies represent fairly the interests of all their citizens? [6]
  - (d) What social and economic factors tend to reduce the ability of some governments to protect the living standards of poorer people in their societies? [6]