CANDIDATE NAME

CENTRE NUMBER

CANDIDATE NUMBER

SOCIOLOGY **9699/22**

Paper 2 Principles and Methods 2 **May/June 2012**

1 hour 30 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

No additional materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

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.
DO **NOT** WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

Answer **two** questions.

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

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

UNIVERSITY *of* CAMBRIDGE
International Examinations

[Turn over

Answer **two** questions.

1 In most societies, age is used as a basis for treating individuals differently. In modern industrial societies, for example, laws exist that limit certain activities (such as drinking alcohol, driving motor vehicles, voting in elections) to people over a particular age. In traditional societies, age is even more important and status may depend entirely upon the *age set* to which a person belongs. Clearly defined roles are associated with particular age sets and elders often exercise authority within the wider group. In many traditional societies, the moving from one age status to another is marked by various ceremonies, known as rites of passage.

In modern industrial societies, there has been a lengthening of the transition between childhood and adulthood. The age at which people begin work is higher than it used to be and many young people now remain in full-time education long beyond the end of their childhood. The term 'youth' has become widely used to describe this period of life between childhood and adulthood. Young people often have their own status systems and lifestyles. This is known as youth culture. Sociologists hold different views about whether youth cultures represent a threat to the dominant values of the society.

(a) What is meant by the term *age set*?

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(b) Describe **two** examples of rites of passage.

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(c) Explain how elderly people may be treated differently to other age groups in modern industrial societies.

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(d) Assess the extent to which youth cultures represent a threat to the dominant values of the society.

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2 The purpose of sociological research is to collect data that may be used to describe or explain a particular aspect of society. There are two types of data: quantitative and qualitative. Quantitative data is information that can be put into number form. Qualitative data is used to describe things that are not easily summarised in number form, such as feelings and ideas. Different research techniques are required to collect each type of data. The techniques for collecting quantitative data include various forms of *social survey*, experiments and content analysis. Qualitative data is more likely to be collected using participant observation and unstructured interviews.

Most research studies in sociology focus on a particular point in time. They provide a 'snapshot' of the attitudes and behaviour of the people in the study group during a single period in their life. However, it is also possible to study people at different periods in their life in order to see how their attitudes and behaviour change over time. Research of this kind that is carried out at intervals over a lengthy period is called a longitudinal study. Maintaining contact with the original sample over time is one of the problems with longitudinal studies. It is also hard to achieve representativeness with this type of study.

(a) What is meant by the term *social survey*?

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(b) Describe **two** problems with carrying out experiments in sociology.

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(c) Explain why it may be hard to achieve representativeness with a longitudinal study.

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(d) Assess the strengths and limitations of qualitative data.

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3 Ethnicity refers to the properties of people who share a similar culture, language, religion and history. Ethnic minorities are groups who are numerically much smaller than the main ethnic group in the society. The existence of different ethnic groups is often associated with variations in power, wealth and status. Indeed, there are some societies where ethnicity is the main basis for stratification. This was the case in South Africa between 1948 and 1994, under the government policy known as Apartheid.

Some ethnic minorities may be treated unfavourably due to racism. Racism involves treating a group of people in a hostile and prejudicial way because they are perceived to be different in their language, culture and appearance to other ethnic groups. Although laws have been introduced to ban racism in modern industrial societies, some sociologists believe that racial discrimination still occurs and is the main reason why *social deprivation* is widespread among some ethnic minority groups. However, there may be other factors apart from racism that explain why ethnic inequality remains a feature of most modern industrial societies.

(a) What is meant by the term *social deprivation*?

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(b) Describe **two** forms of stratification that are not based on ethnicity.

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(c) Explain why laws to ban racism may be ineffective in preventing racial discrimination.

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(d) Assess sociological explanations for the existence of ethnic inequality.

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