



Cambridge International AS & A Level

SOCIOLOGY

9699/22

Paper 2 Theory and Methods

February/March 2020

1 hour 30 minutes



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **two** questions in total:
 - Section A: answer Question 1.
 - Section B: answer **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

This document has 4 pages. Blank pages are indicated.

Section A

Answer Question 1.

Sociologists disagree about which methods produce the best results in sociological research. Positivists prefer to use quantitative methods, such as questionnaires, structured interviews and experiments. They may also use quantitative secondary data, such as official statistics. Secondary data is information that already exists and has been gathered by other people or organisations.

Positivists argue that sociology should be as scientific as possible and so they prefer methods that allow the researcher to measure human behaviour and record the findings in quantitative form. Interpretivists, on the other hand, favour the use of qualitative methods, such as participant observation and *unstructured interviews*, as well as qualitative secondary data. Interpretivists believe that qualitative methods produce data that is high in validity.

- 1 (a) What is meant by the term *unstructured interview*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** advantages of using secondary data in sociological research. [4]
- (c) Explain why positivists favour the use of experiments in sociological research. [8]
- (d) Assess the interpretivist view that qualitative methods produce data that is high in validity. [11]

Section B

Answer **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

- 2 Explain and assess the view that an individual's identity is shaped by social forces beyond their control. [25]
- 3 'Data produced using participant observation is of little value in sociological research.' Explain and assess this view. [25]

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