

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

**SOCIOLOGY**

**2251/02**

Paper 2

October/November 2003

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

**1 hour 45 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 **three** questions.

Answer no more than **two** questions from any one section.

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.

## Section A

## Family

- 1 The functions performed by families have changed as societies have modernised.
- (a) What is meant by the term *functions*? [2]
  - (b) What functions do families perform in traditional societies? [6]
  - (c) How have these functions changed as societies have modernised? [6]
  - (d) How far is the rising divorce rate in some societies an indication that the family is in decline? [6]
- 2 The nuclear family is found mainly in modern industrial societies. Family units tend to be larger in traditional societies.
- (a) What is meant by the term *nuclear family*? [2]
  - (b) Describe **two** other types of family structure. [4]
  - (c) Why do family units tend to be larger in traditional societies? [7]
  - (d) To what extent is the nuclear family in decline in modern industrial societies? [7]
- 3 Although men and women share many tasks in the home today, they are still often unequal partners.
- (a) What factors may have led men and women to share more tasks in the home today? [5]
  - (b) To what extent do women still experience inequality in the home? [5]
  - (c) What problems may women face in trying to achieve equal relationships with men in the family? [5]
  - (d) To what extent may the rise in divorce rates in many modern industrial societies be seen as a reaction by women against inequality in the home? [5]

## Section B

## Education

- 4 Children from working class backgrounds generally perform less well in school than children from middle class backgrounds.
- (a) What part may home factors play in explaining the educational underachievement of many working class children? [5]
  - (b) In what ways may schools and teachers contribute to the educational underachievement of many working class children? [5]
  - (c) What can schools do to improve the educational performance of working class children? [5]
  - (d) Why do children from some ethnic minority groups perform poorly at school? [5]
- 5 In modern industrial societies, young people are prepared for the world of work by attendance at schools and colleges. Informal systems of education perform a similar function in many traditional societies.
- (a) What is meant by the term *informal education*? [2]
  - (b) Why is informal education found in many less industrialised societies? [6]
  - (c) In what ways do formal education systems prepare young people for the world of work? [6]
  - (d) Apart from preparing young people for work, what other social functions are performed by formal education systems? [6]
- 6 In some societies young people are increasingly distinct from adults, more self-aware, and subject to peer group rather than parental and other adult influences. Their attitudes and values are shaped by youth cultures.
- (a) What is meant by the term *youth cultures*? [2]
  - (b) What factors explain the growth of youth cultures in modern industrial societies? [6]
  - (c) What types of attitudes and values are associated with youth cultures? [6]
  - (d) How far do youth cultures represent a threat to the dominant values of society? [6]

## Section C

## Culture, Communication and the Mass Media

- 7 More people watch television than any other form of the media, and so the images and messages presented may be influential.
- (a) To what extent may watching television encourage violent behaviour? [5]
  - (b) In what ways may television influence political opinions and beliefs? [5]
  - (c) How might the lifestyles of young people be influenced by television? [5]
  - (d) In what ways may television be a threat to local cultures and traditional ways of life? [5]
- 8 The media filter and select the items they print and broadcast. This sometimes leads to accusations of bias and distortion.
- (a) What is meant by the terms *bias* and *distortion*? [2]
  - (b) What factors influence journalists in their selection and presentation of news reports? [6]
  - (c) Which groups, if any, benefit from bias and distortion in the media? [6]
  - (d) How might government regulation affect bias and distortion in the media? [6]
- 9 The media abound with stereotypes. Women, for example, are often presented in the stereotyped feminine roles – lovers, mothers and housewives.
- (a) What is meant by the term *stereotypes*? [2]
  - (b) How do magazines for women differ from those for men? [6]
  - (c) Why are women often presented by the media in stereotyped feminine roles? [6]
  - (d) How far does the media portrayal of ethnic minority groups reinforce racism in society? [6]

## Section D

## Occupations

- 10 The division of labour in industry has many economic advantages, but it may also lead to alienation among the workforce.
- (a) What is meant by the term *alienation*? [2]
  - (b) Describe **two** advantages of the division of labour. [4]
  - (c) Why may the division of labour lead to alienation among the workforce? [6]
  - (d) What other factors may cause workers to feel alienated? [8]
- 11 Although women are a growing proportion of the paid labour force, it is still far from the case that they are paid the same as men or have equal access to the top positions.
- (a) Why has the number of women in the paid labour force increased in modern industrial societies in recent years? [5]
  - (b) In what ways does the position of women in the paid labour force reflect their position in the family? [5]
  - (c) How effective has legislation been in improving the position of women in the paid labour force? [5]
  - (d) Why are there so few women in the top positions in the paid labour force? [5]
- 12 Official strike statistics may be misleading as an indicator of the extent of industrial conflict in a society.
- (a) In what ways may official strike statistics give a misleading picture of the extent of industrial conflict in a society? [5]
  - (b) Why are some industries more prone to strikes than others? [5]
  - (c) What factors may lead workers to go on strike? [5]
  - (d) Apart from strikes, what other methods can trades unions use to improve the wages and working conditions of their members? [5]

## Section E

## Population

- 13 People are living longer today and many industrialised countries face the problem of an ageing population.
- (a) What is meant by the term *ageing population*? [2]
  - (b) Why are people living longer today? [6]
  - (c) What are the consequences of an ageing population for the family? [6]
  - (d) What actions might governments take to address the problems created by an ageing population? [6]
- 14 Many poor countries are experiencing a rapid increase in population even though they also have high infant mortality rates.
- (a) What is meant by the term *infant mortality*? [2]
  - (b) Why do many poor countries have high infant mortality rates? [6]
  - (c) What problems does a rapidly increasing population cause for poorer countries? [6]
  - (d) What might governments do to reduce the rate of population growth? [6]
- 15 In poor countries most deaths and illnesses are related to poverty. Even in modern industrial societies, however, there are real differences in health and illness between social classes.
- (a) What kinds of illnesses are related to poverty in poor countries? [5]
  - (b) What kinds of illnesses most commonly lead to death in modern industrial societies? [5]
  - (c) Why does economic development affect the pattern of illness and death? [5]
  - (d) In what ways may rural health programmes help to improve health conditions in poor countries? [5]

## Section F

## Crime and Delinquency

- 16 People do not always inform the police when they witness or are victims of a crime. Official crime statistics deal only with the crimes known to the police.
- (a) What types of crime are most likely to appear in the official crime statistics? [5]
  - (b) Why are many crimes not reported to the police? [5]
  - (c) Why are some groups more likely to be represented within the official crime statistics than others? [5]
  - (d) What ways are there of measuring the amount of crime in a society other than official statistics? [5]
- 17 Definitions of what is regarded as deviant behaviour vary across times and cultures.
- (a) What is meant by the term *deviant behaviour*? [2]
  - (b) Why may definitions of deviant behaviour change over time? [6]
  - (c) How has labelling theory been used in attempts to explain deviant behaviour? [6]
  - (d) Why may some acts be defined as deviant when performed by one group and not when performed by another? [6]
- 18 Social control refers to the processes by which the behaviour of individuals or groups is regulated. There is a distinction between formal and informal social control.
- (a) What is meant by the term *formal social control*? [2]
  - (b) What informal social controls are used in traditional societies to deter deviant behaviour? [6]
  - (c) In whose interests does social control operate? [6]
  - (d) What reasons may individuals or groups have for resisting processes of social control? [6]

