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UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

279 0010 ZB

990 0010 ZB

996 D010 ZB

BSc degrees and Diplomas for Graduates in Economics, Management, Finance and the Social Sciences, the Diploma in Economics and Access Route for Students in the External Programme

Introduction to Sociology

Wednesday, 10 May 2006 : 2.30pm to 5.30pm

Candidates should answer **THREE** of the following **FOURTEEN** questions:

QUESTION 1 of Section A (40 marks), **ONE** question from Section B or C (30 marks) and **ONE** question from Section D (30 marks). **Candidates are strongly advised to divide their time accordingly.**

PLEASE TURN OVER

SECTION A

Answer all **eight** parts of question 1 (40 marks in total).

Question 1

Surveys are aimed at collecting data that can be statistically analysed to reveal patterns or regularities. If the survey tools are designed properly, correlations found through a survey can be generalised to a larger audience.

(Giddens, A.: *Sociology*; Polity Press)

- (a) What is meant by a correlation? (1 mark)

- (b) Identify **two** methods that could be used to undertake survey research. (2 marks)

- (c) Explain how sampling would allow results of a survey to be 'generalised to a larger audience'. (3 marks)

- (d) Your employers want to conduct a survey of their workforce using interviews. Advise them on the following questions.
 - i. Explain the difference between using structured and unstructured interviews. (2 marks)

 - ii. Describe and explain **two** major benefits of using structured interviews. (3 marks)

 - iii. Describe and explain **two** major benefits of using unstructured interviews. (3 marks)

- (e) Look at the statements below. Say whether each one is true or false and briefly explain why.
 - i. Participant observation is a reliable research method. (2 marks)
 - ii. Verstehen means measurement in sociology. (2 marks)
 - iii. Under-reporting may be a problem when using official statistics. (2 marks)

(question continues on next page)

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- (f) Briefly explain what is meant by any **one** of the following terms in sociology. (4 marks)
- i. materialism
 - ii. positivism
 - iii. social realism
 - iv. postmodernism
- (g) Why is data 'theory dependent'? (6 marks)
- (h) Apply any **one** of the following theoretical perspectives to any **one** 'social problem' in your society. (10 marks)
- i. Marxism
 - ii. social action theory
 - iii. structural functionalism
 - iv. symbolic interactionism
 - v. phenomenology

SECTION B

Answer **one** question from **either** this section **or** from Section C (30 marks).

2. What are the functions of the family in the modern world? Illustrate your answer with reference to any **one** society.
3. Critically evaluate a Marxist account of the role of religion in society.
4. Why do societies urbanise? Describe the process of urbanisation in any **one** society.
5. Why do systems of education change?
6. Critically evaluate any **one** theory of globalisation.
7. Compare an idealist explanation of social change with a materialist explanation.

SECTION C

Answer **one** question from **either** this section **or** from Section B (30 marks).

8. What are the functions of social inequality?
9. Why is the average income of women lower than the average income of men in most societies? Illustrate your answer with reference to any **one** society.
10. Describe and explain the basis of ethnic divisions in any **one** society.
11. Explain and describe the class divisions in any **one** society.

SECTION D

Answer **one** question from this section (30 marks).

12. 'Power is ultimately economic power.' Explain and discuss.
13. 'Patriarchal power prevents women from achieving their full potential.' Explain and discuss.
14. Why do organisations grow and why do they decline?

END OF PAPER

