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**UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**

**279 0021 ZA  
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**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**

**Principles of Sociology**

Wednesday, 10 May 2006 : 2.30pm to 5.30pm

Candidates should answer **THREE** of the following **EIGHT** questions: **QUESTION 1** of Section A (50 marks in total), **QUESTION 2** of Section B (25 marks) and **ONE** from Section C (25 marks). **Candidates are strongly advised to divide their time accordingly.**

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## SECTION A

Answer **all** parts of question 1 (50 marks in total).

### Question 1

Socialisation is a process that makes us into social beings, that turns an individual into a member of society. It begins with a child's upbringing in the family and continues through education but does not stop there, for it continues throughout our life. Every time we join a new group, perhaps of first years at university or colleagues at work, a process of socialisation goes on. Socialisation is fundamental to the understanding of the workings of a society.

(J. Fulcher & J. Scott: *Sociology*; Oxford University Press)

- (a) What do sociologists mean by socialisation? **(1 mark)**
- (b) Explain the distinction between primary and secondary socialisation. **(2 marks)**
- (c) Outline the key characteristics of any **one** sociological theory of socialisation. **(4 marks)**
- (d) Your employers want to conduct a survey of their workforce through a questionnaire. Advise them on the following.
  - i. Explain how they can obtain a representative sample of the workforce. **(3 marks)**
  - ii. Explain the difference between using structured and unstructured questions. **(3 marks)**
  - iii. Describe and explain two major advantages of using structured questions in this study. **(3 marks)**
  - iv. Describe and explain two major limitations of using structured questions in this study. **(3 marks)**

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- (e) Look at the statements below on participant observation. Say whether each one is true or false and briefly explain why.
- i. Participant observation is always reliable. (2 marks)
  - ii. Participant observation is usually ecologically valid. (2 marks)
  - iii. The observer effect is a major problem in covert participant observation. (2 marks)
- (f) There can be no research without theory. Look at the diagram of the research process below and explain why theory is relevant at each stage. (6 marks)
- i. formulation of research problem  
↓
  - ii. data collection  
↓
  - iii. data interpretation
- (g) Explain and illustrate what sociologists mean by any **one** of the following. (7 marks)
- i. phenomenology
  - ii. social construction of reality
  - iii. ethnomethodology
  - iv. postmodernism
- (h) Outline the major characteristics of **one** of the following sociological perspectives and explain how it might be applied to help explain any **one** social problem in your society. (12 marks)
- i. Marxism
  - ii. social action theory
  - iii. structural functionalism
  - iv. symbolic interactionism
  - v. ethnomethodology

## SECTION B

Answer the question in this section (25 marks).

2. Is globalisation a new phenomenon?

## SECTION C

Answer **one** question from this section (25 marks).

3. 'The family is the basis of women's subordination.' Explain and discuss.
4. Compare and contrast **two** sociological approaches to understanding 'race' and 'ethnicity'.
5. Compare any **two** sociological theories that attempt to explain social inequalities in society.
6. How have sociologists explained the importance and functions of religion in society?
7. Compare and contrast any **two** theories of power in society.
8. What is an organisation? Compare **two** sociological explanations of organisational change.

END OF PAPER

