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UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

279 0021 ZB

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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

Social institutions are established practices that regulate the various activities that make up social life. Examples of institutions are marriages, markets, education, religious rituals and governments, that in their different ways all give order to the different aspects of the way that we live.

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

- (a) What are social institutions? **(1 mark)**
- (b) What do sociologists mean by institutional dependence? **(2 marks)**
- (c) People are expected to play roles within institutions. Explain what sociologists mean by roles and how roles are linked to individuals' identities. **(6 marks)**
- (d) The managers of a college want to undertake a participant observation study of student life. Advise them on the following.
 - i. Explain the difference between overt and covert participant observation. **(2 marks)**
 - ii. Explain two of the likely difficulties in setting up a participant observation research study. **(2 marks)**
 - iii. Describe and explain **two** major benefits of studying student life through participant observation. **(3 marks)**
 - iv. Describe and explain **two** of the major limitations of studying student life through participant observation. **(3 marks)**

(question continues on next page)

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- (e) Look at the statements below. Say whether each one is true or false and briefly explain why.
- i. Reliability and validity are different from each other. (2 marks)
 - ii. Verstehen means measurement in sociology. (2 marks)
 - iii. An ontological problem in sociology is about how knowledge of societies is generated. (2 marks)
- (f) To what extent are the principles and logic of the natural sciences applicable in sociology? (6 marks)
- (g) Explain and illustrate what sociologists mean by any **one** of the following terms. (7 marks)
- i. alienation
 - ii. rationalisation
 - iii. social construction of reality
 - iv. postmodernity
- (h) Outline the contribution of **one** of the following to sociology. (12 marks)
- i. Durkheim
 - ii. Weber
 - iii. Parsons
 - iv. Mead
 - v. Goffman

SECTION B

Answer the question from this section (25 marks).

2. Hyperglobalists believe that globalisation is both new and inevitable. Explain and discuss.

SECTION C

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

3. Describe how sociologists have explained the relationships between sex, gender and sexuality.
4. Discuss the relevance of sociological theories of 'race' to any **one** society.
5. Discuss the relationship between social inequality and social injustice.
6. What is the relationship between
either
(a) religion and modernity
or
(b) religious behaviour and social change?
7. 'Power is ultimately economic power.' Explain and discuss.
8. 'Changes in organisations cannot be separated from changes in the wider society.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER

