UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education Advanced Subsidiary Level and Advanced Level

CANDIDATE NAME	
CENTRE NUMBER	
CANDIDATE NUMBER	

SOCIOLOGY **9699/23**

Paper 2 Principles and Methods 2 **May/June 2013**

1 hour 30 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

No additional materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen.
You may use a soft pencil for any diagrams, graphs or rough working.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.
DO **NOT** WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

Answer **two** questions.

You may not need all the answer lines for your answer.

The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.

This document consists of **13** printed pages and **3** blank pages.

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1 There are different views about the role that personal values should play in sociological research. Some sociologists favour a value-committed approach to their work. They believe that the purpose of research is to make the world a better place. This means that they are concerned about how their research data is used and whose interests it serves. A contrasting view is held by sociologists who favour the positivist approach. They believe that the researcher should remain objective and *value-free* at all times. The purpose of sociological enquiry, in this view, is to search for the truth. What use is made of the information generated through sociological research is not the concern of the sociologist, the positivists argue.

(a) What is meant by the term *value-free*?

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(b) Describe **two** difficulties in maintaining objectivity in sociological research.

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(c) Explain how sociological research may be used to bring about improvements in society.

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(d) Assess the positivist view that objectivity is important when carrying out sociological research.

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2 Secondary sources that are used in sociological research may be quantitative or qualitative. Official statistics are an example of a quantitative secondary source. They are collected by the government using social surveys such as the census. Such sources are valuable in sociological research because they are easily accessible and much more detailed than any data sociologists could produce. The census is the only survey that tries to include the whole of the population and participation is a legal requirement. Some sociologists in the *positivist* tradition, such as Durkheim, have seen official statistics as both a valid and a reliable source of data. However, interpretivists have warned that official statistics have a number of limitations and caution must be applied when using this data in sociological research. Interpretivists see more value in using qualitative secondary sources.

(a) What is meant by the term *positivist*?

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(b) Describe **two** types of qualitative secondary sources that may be used in sociological research.

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(c) Explain why some sociologists think that caution must be applied when using official statistics in sociological research.

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(d) Assess the strengths and limitations of using qualitative secondary sources in sociological research.

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3 In most modern industrial societies, women earn less than men and are more likely to be employed on a part-time or temporary basis only. A high percentage of women are found in lower-paid occupations such as clerical work, repetitive assembly work, cleaning and catering. Even where women are employed in professional occupations, it tends to be in the lower-paid professions in areas such as health care and education. More women experience downward social mobility than upward, while for men the reverse is true. Men fill most of the top jobs in industry and the professions. This means that women are largely excluded from the positions in society that carry most power and *prestige*.

(a) What is meant by the term *prestige*?

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(b) Describe **two** reasons why women are more likely to be employed on a part-time basis.

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(c) Explain why men are more likely than women to experience upward social mobility.

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(d) Assess feminist explanations for why so few women fill the top positions in industry and the professions.

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