



# Cambridge International AS & A Level

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**SOCIOLOGY**

**9699/23**

Paper 2 Theory and Methods

**May/June 2020**

**1 hour 30 minutes**



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

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## INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **two** questions in total:  
Section A: answer Question 1.  
Section B: answer **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

## INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].

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This document has **4** pages. Blank pages are indicated.

**Section A**

Answer Question 1.

- 1 Values and *norms* are part of the culture of a society and are learned through socialisation. Sociologists aim to understand the way in which society shapes individual behaviour through studying the process of socialisation. Values are the general beliefs or ideas about what is right or wrong in a society or social group. However, these values may vary between different groups in a society and they may also change over time.

While behaviour varies between individuals, social order largely depends on people conforming to the norms and values of their society. Functionalists argue that social order is created through the process of socialisation. By contrast, conflict theories argue that there are other factors that also influence social order.

- (a) What is meant by the term *norms*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** ways in which society may shape how people behave. [4]
- (c) Explain why values may vary between social groups. [8]
- (d) Assess the functionalist explanation of social order. [11]

**Section B**

Answer **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

- 2 'Qualitative methods have little value in sociological research because they lack reliability.' Explain and assess this view. [25]
- 3 'It is both desirable and possible for sociology to be objective.' Explain and assess this view. [25]



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