



Cambridge IGCSE™

SOCIOLOGY

0495/11

Paper 1 Research Methods, Identity and Inequality

May/June 2025

2 hours

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **two** questions in total:
Answer Question 1.
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 80.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

This document has **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.



Answer Question 1.

Research methods

- 1 Read Source A and then answer the questions below.

Source A

In the United States Barbara Ehrenreich used covert participant observation to research how working class people are able to live on low wages. For several months Ehrenreich left her middle-class home and lived and worked with people in low-wage jobs. She found work in four different cities in the United States. Her various jobs included being a waitress, a cleaner, a care home assistant and a shop worker. She wrote down her experiences at the end of each day. For her research Ehrenreich experienced trying to live on a low wage to pay for her food, clothing, transportation and shelter.

Using covert participant observation allowed Ehrenreich to gain a first-hand, qualitative and in-depth understanding of the difficult lives of low-wage workers. Her conclusions were:

- low-wage workers cannot afford basic necessities without working in more than one job
- low-wage workers are often socially controlled through random searches of their bags and drug testing
- managers had negative attitudes to low-wage workers based on class or racial prejudice
- medical treatment and childcare are too expensive for low-wage workers.

Source: adapted from an internet summary of 'Nickel and Dimed' by Barbara Ehrenreich.

- (a) (i) From **Source A**, identify **two** conclusions of Ehrenreich's research. [2]
- (ii) Using information in **Source A**, explain **two** reasons why the research is useful for studying the experiences of low-wage workers. [4]
- (iii) Using information in **Source A**, explain **three** problems with the research for understanding the experiences of low-wage workers. [6]
- (b) State **two** aspects of a positivist approach to sociological research. [2]
- (c) Explain **one** strength and **one** limitation of semi-structured interviews. [4]
- (d) Evaluate the macro approach to sociological research.

Your answer should include:

- at least **two** arguments for and **two** arguments against
- a conclusion. [10]

- (e) Explain the research methods and evidence that you would choose to investigate views on marriage. Give reasons for your choices.

Your answer should include:

- **two** primary methods with relevant sampling
- **one** source of secondary evidence.

[12]

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

Identity: self and society

2 (a) Define the term:

(i) agencies of socialisation [2]

(ii) hybrid identities. [2]

(b) Give **two** examples of coercion. [2]

(c) Explain **three** ways young people can be negatively affected by social media. [6]

(d) Explain **three** ways that identity can be negatively impacted by global culture. [6]

(e) Discuss how courts are an effective agency of formal social control.

Your answer should include:

- at least **three** developed points with evidence. [8]

(f) Evaluate the functionalist view of socialisation.

Your answer should include:

- at least **three** arguments for and **three** arguments against
- a conclusion. [14]

Social stratification and inequality

- 3 (a) Define the term:
- (i) welfare state [2]
 - (ii) intersectionality. [2]
- (b) Give **two** features of the poverty trap. [2]
- (c) Explain **three** pull factors that may cause people to migrate to another country. [6]
- (d) Explain **three** criticisms of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). [6]
- (e) Discuss the view that ethnicity affects life chances.
- Your answer should include:
- at least **three** developed points with evidence. [8]
- (f) Evaluate the view that legislation has reduced inequalities in society.
- Your answer should include:
- at least **three** arguments for and **three** arguments against
 - a conclusion. [14]

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