

Cambridge Ordinary Level

SOCIOLOGY**2251/12**

Paper 1 Research Methods, Identity and Inequality

May/June 2026**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 (a) Read **Source A** and then answer the questions below.

Source A

Figure 1.1 shows the percentage of male and female Members of Parliament (MPs) in Britain between 1980 and 2020. These statistics were published in a feminist article about global gender inequality. The statistical data was originally gathered by sociologists working for the British government.

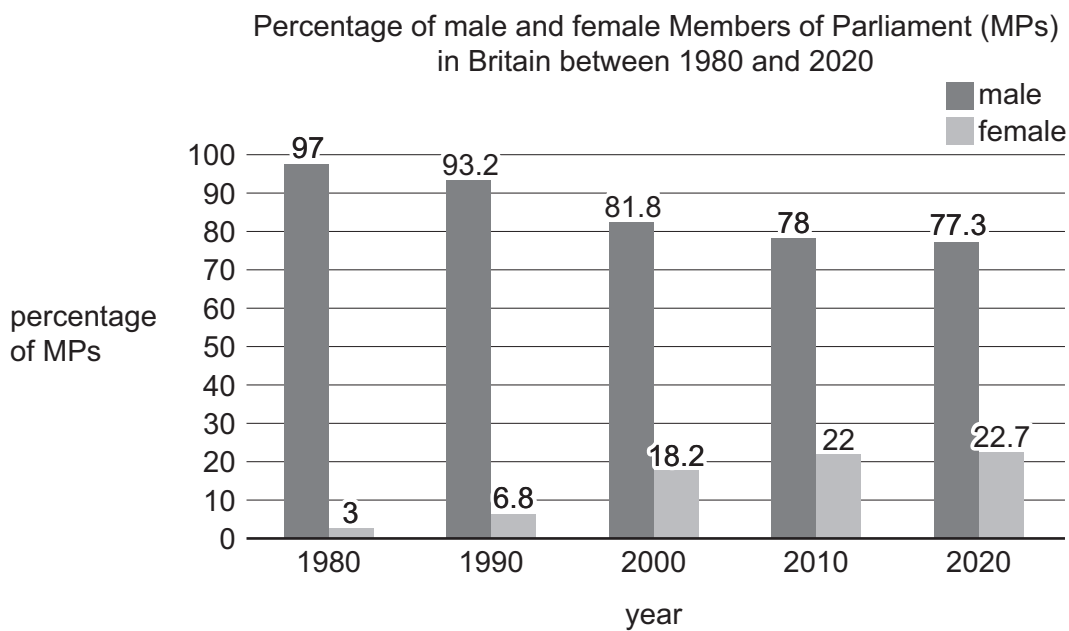


Figure 1.1

Source: *Adapted from a feminist article about global gender inequality (2025).*

- (i) From **Source A**, identify the **two** years with the highest percentage of female MPs. [2]
 - (ii) Using information in **Source A**, explain **two** reasons why the data is useful for researching gender inequality. [4]
 - (iii) Using information in **Source A**, explain **three** problems with the data for understanding gender inequality. [6]
- (b) State **two** primary research methods used to gather quantitative data. [2]
- (c) Explain **one** strength and **one** limitation of using primary data in sociological research. [4]

(d) Evaluate the view that researchers are always subjective when doing 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 the fear of crime amongst old people. 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) 'pick and mix' society [2]

(ii) multiculturalism. [2]

(b) Give **two** examples of formal social control. [2]

(c) Describe **three** examples of how values affect people's behaviour. [6]

(d) Explain **three** ways females are socialised into femininity. [6]

(e) Discuss how social cohesion is created, according to functionalists.

Your answer should include:

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

(f) Evaluate the view that age has the most influence on social identity.

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)** pollution [2]
 - (ii)** power. [2]
- (b)** Give **two** examples of equal opportunities laws. [2]
- (c)** Describe **three** ways that life chances may be affected by being working class. [6]
- (d)** Explain **three** ways cultural diversity affects societies. [6]
- (e)** Discuss the view that a reserve army of labour exists.
- Your answer should include:
- at least **three** developed points with evidence. [8]
- (f)** Evaluate the view that gender has the most impact on social inequality.
- Your answer should include:
- at least **three** arguments for and **three** arguments against
 - a conclusion. [14]

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