

Cambridge IGCSE™

SOCIOLOGY**0495/11**

Paper 1 Research Methods, Identity and Inequality

May/June 2026**2 hours**

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

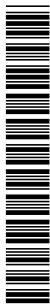
You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

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 number of males in prison in five selected countries in 1980 and 2020. The numbers are taken from official statistics in each country. The official statistics show the number of male prisoners over the age of 21. The numbers have been rounded up to the nearest thousand.

Content removed due to copyright restrictions.

Figure 1.1

Source: Adapted from a website on crime.

- (i) From **Source A**, identify the **two** countries with the biggest increase in the number of males in prison between 1980 and 2020. [2]
- (ii) Using information in **Source A**, explain **two** reasons why the data is useful for researching crime. [4]
- (iii) Using information in **Source A**, explain **three** problems with the data for understanding crime. [6]
- (b) State **two** practical issues that can affect sociological research. [2]
- (c) Explain **one** strength and **one** limitation of using covert observation in sociological research. [4]

(d) Evaluate the use of surveys in 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 why some children achieve better examination results than others. 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) lifestyle [2]

(ii) social conformity. [2]

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

(c) Describe **three** examples of how agencies of socialisation use role modelling. [6]

(d) Explain **three** ways social media can have a positive impact on identity. [6]

(e) Discuss reasons why some people join protest groups.

Your answer should include:

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

(f) Evaluate the view that the government is the most effective agency of social control.

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)** open society [2]
 - (ii)** life chances. [2]
- (b)** Give **two** examples of pull factors in migration. [2]
- (c)** Describe **three** ways wealth can be redistributed. [6]
- (d)** Explain **three** negative effects of urbanisation. [6]
- (e)** Discuss Marxist criticisms of the welfare state.
- Your answer should include:
- at least **three** developed points with evidence. [8]
- (f)** Evaluate the view that ethnicity has the most influence on whether an individual lives in poverty.
- Your answer should include:
- at least **three** arguments for and **three** arguments against
 - a conclusion. [14]

BLANK PAGE

BLANK PAGE

BLANK PAGE

Permission to reproduce items where third-party owned material protected by copyright is included has been sought and cleared where possible. Every reasonable effort has been made by the publisher (Cambridge University Press & Assessment) to trace copyright holders, but if any items requiring clearance have unwittingly been included, the publisher will be pleased to make amends at the earliest possible opportunity.

To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced online in our Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download at www.cambridgeinternational.org after the live examination series.

Cambridge International Education is the name of our awarding body and a part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, which is a department of the University of Cambridge.