

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

SOCIOLOGY

0495/02

Paper 2

October/November 2003

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.
Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.
You may use a soft pencil for any diagrams, graphs, music or rough working.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **all** questions.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

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

This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.



SOCIAL DIFFERENTIATION AND INEQUALITY

Poverty

Introduction

Poverty is a problem throughout the world. It takes different forms and the degree of poverty is greater in some countries than others. Studies suggest that almost half of the population in low-income countries lack the resources needed for subsistence.

The following sources present evidence about poverty in different parts of the world.

Study the sources carefully before answering the questions.

Source A

Poverty is a state in which resources, usually material but sometimes cultural, are lacking. There is considerable disagreement about the definition and measurement of poverty. For example, researchers have disputed whether poverty should be measured in absolute or relative terms. Another dispute concerns whether poverty can be defined purely in material terms (for example, wealth and income), or whether the definition should be wider.

It is well known that malnutrition is a major cause of ill health and death in the less industrialised countries. However, studies have found that even in rich countries a significant minority of people lack adequate nutrition.

Percentage of the population who lack adequate nutrition
in modern industrialised countries

USA	7.2%
Canada	5.5%
France	5.3%
Japan	5.1%
UK	4.2%
Spain	3.9%
Germany	3.5%

Source B

Although we are a rich industrialised country, we have many poor people. However, their poverty is different in many ways from that experienced by poor people in the less industrialised countries. To illustrate these differences we did a comparative study based on structured interviews with poor people in three rich industrialised countries and three less industrialised countries. The interviewers were specially trained in how to establish trust and a good relationship with the subjects. We thought this was important in order to put the subjects at ease and get the most information from them.

Secondary data was also used in the study. This was mainly based upon government statistics and evidence gathered by charities that work with the poor.

Source C

As sociologists we were aware that poverty exists among many different groups of people – the elderly, single-parent families, the homeless, the unemployed, drug-addicts. Through our research we wanted to find out about the experience of poverty from the perspective of each of these groups. This meant choosing a sample that included people from each group. The method of sampling we used was quota sampling. Random sampling was rejected because it would not have guaranteed a sample that fairly represented the different groups we wanted to study.

Source D

Some people are poor because they lack the income to pay for the basic necessities of life – food, adequate housing, warm clothing, etc. Other people are poor because, although they have just enough income to pay for the basic necessities, they use their money wastefully; for example, they may buy cigarettes and alcohol rather than the food and clothing they need.

Study **Source A** carefully.

- 1 In which countries did more than 1 in 20 of the population lack adequate nutrition? [2]
- 2 What is the difference between *absolute* and *relative* poverty? [2]
- 3 Explain why evidence about the number of poor people in a society may be affected by the way poverty is defined. [4]

Study **Source B** carefully.

- 4 In Source B the researchers wanted to establish trust and a good relationship with the subjects. Identify **three** ways in which this might help to improve the validity of the evidence collected. [3]
- 5 Identify **three** possible causes of bias or inaccuracy in evidence based upon secondary data. [6]
- 6 Identify **two** advantages and **two** disadvantages of structured interviews. [4]

Study **Source C** carefully.

- 7 Give **two** reasons why a sample might be used in sociological research? [2]
- 8 Identify **two** factors that may influence the type of sampling method used in sociological research. [4]

Study **Source D** carefully.

- 9 ‘Some people are poor because they use their money wastefully.’ Describe the evidence sociologists might use to test this claim. [3]

