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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)

8766965631

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.

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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.

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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]

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(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]

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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]

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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]

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