CAMBRIDGE
International Education

# Cambridge IGCSE™

**SOCIOLOGY** **0495/12**

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)

*5150090468*

**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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**[Turn over**

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.

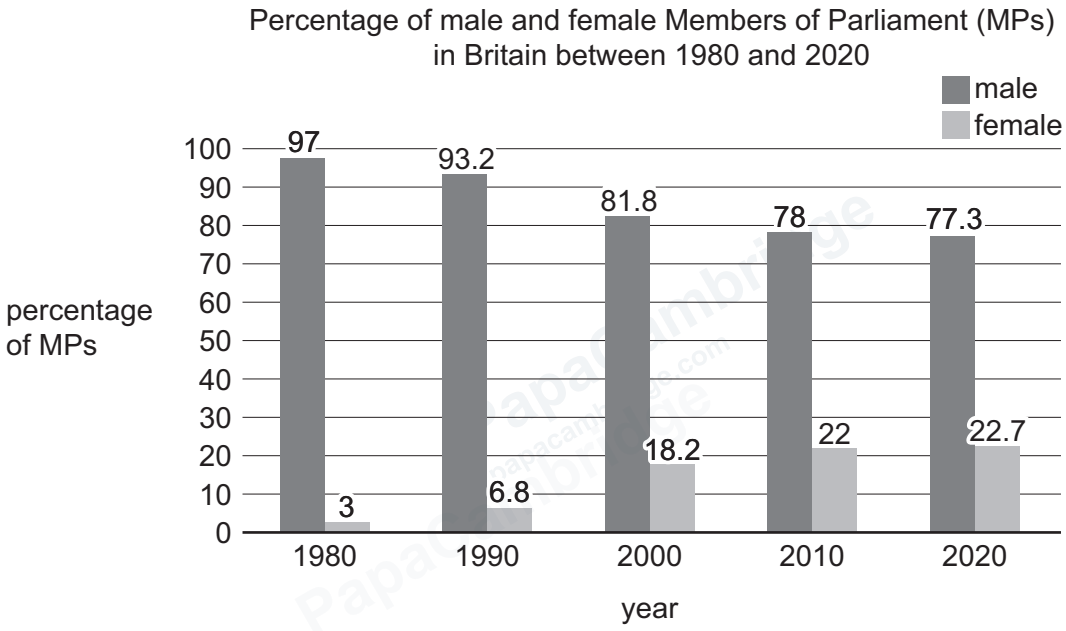


**Figure 1.1**

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]

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**(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]

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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]

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## 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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