

Section A: Theory and methods

Answer Question 1.

1 Source A

In 1937 Bill Whyte began a three and a half year study into an Italian-American gang in Boston, USA. This classic study, called 'Street Corner Society', was based on participant observation. One of the difficulties Bill Whyte faced was gaining entry into the group. He was helped by the gang leader Doc.

Doc later told Bill Whyte:

'Now when I do something I have to think what Bill Whyte would want to know about it and how I can explain it. Before, I used to do things by instinct.'

Bill Whyte later admitted that he had become so involved with the gang that he had become a non-observant participant rather than a non-participant observer.

- (a) Identify **two** reasons why researchers might have difficulties gaining entry to groups like gangs. [2]
- (b) Identify **two** methods that might be used to research gangs, apart from observation. [2]
- (c) Using information from Source A, describe **two** ways in which the observer might influence the behaviour of those being observed. [4]
- (d) Describe **two** strengths of using non-participant observation in sociological research. [4]
- (e) Describe **two** strengths and **two** limitations of unstructured interviews. [8]
- (f) Explain why the results of participant observation studies may be unreliable. [10]
- (g) To what extent does the presence of the researcher affect the validity of the research? [15]

Answer **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

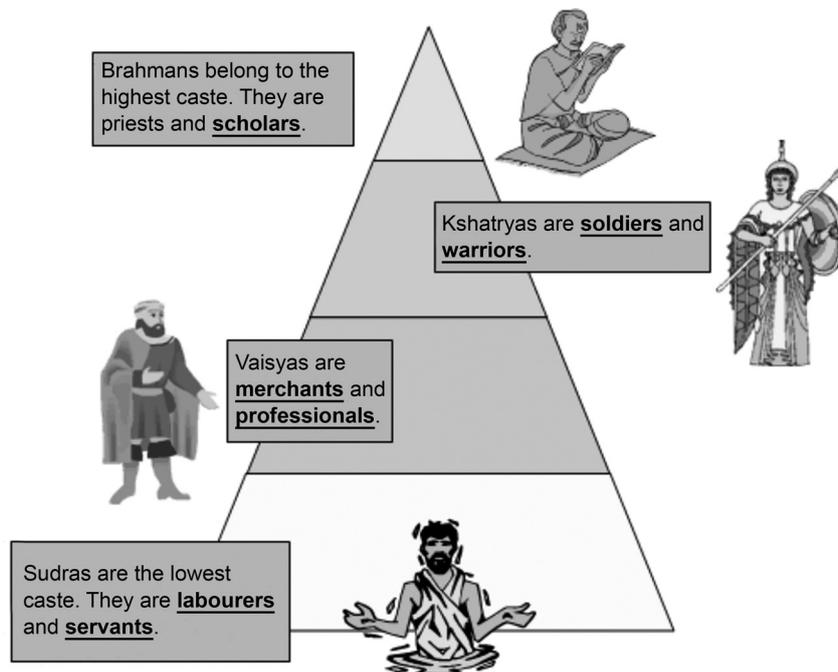
Section B: Culture, identity and socialisation

- 2 A society's culture includes its norms, values and the roles people are expected to play. The norms of one society can be very different to those of another. In some societies polygamy is an acceptable practice. In other societies it is unacceptable and illegal.
- (a) What is meant by the term 'norms'? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** examples of values. [4]
- (c) Explain how norms and values depend on time and place. [6]
- (d) Explain why role conflict occurs. [8]
- (e) To what extent can it be claimed that some values are universal? [15]

Section C: Social inequality

3

The Caste System



- (a) What is meant by the term 'caste'? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** forms of social stratification, apart from the Caste System. [4]
- (c) Explain how an individual can have high status but have little wealth. [6]
- (d) Explain why people at the bottom of the social class system experience poor life chances. [8]
- (e) To what extent is social mobility possible in an open society? [15]

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