

考試科目	專業英文	所別	社會系	考試時間	5月24日 星期六	第一節
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1. Kaul Polanyi once argued that "the road to the free market was opened and kept open by an enormous increase in continuous, centrally organized and controlled interventionism." Thus the life of the market has been intertwined not just with other kinds of social ties, but with the forms and policies of the state. An effective state was not simply an adjunct to the market, it was an essential prerequisite of the formation of market relations. Likewise, Weber argued that the operation of large-scale capitalist enterprise depended on the availability of the kind of order that only a modern bureaucratic state could provide. Thus capitalism and bureaucracy have found each other and belong intimately together. In Weber's vision, the state's ability to support markets and capitalist accumulation depends on the bureaucracy being a corporately coherent entity in which individuals see pursuing corporate goals as the best way to maximize their individual self-interest. Corporate coherence requires that individual incumbents be to some degree insulated from the demands of the surrounding society. The concentration of expertise in the bureaucracy through meritocratic recruitment and the provision of opportunities for long-term career rewards is also central to the bureaucracy's effectiveness. (30%)

(a) Could you provide the reasoning why both Polanyi and Weber would concur that the operation of market economy relied upon the order provided by an effective state bureaucracy?

(b) In what way would Weber conceptualize the state bureaucracy as an entity with corporate coherence and relative insulation from society?

(c) If Marx joined the discussion, what kind of theoretical position was he likely to take?

Scholars of civil society and social capital are mostly optimistic about the contributions civil society can make to democracy and development. However, once Mancur Olson argued that when special-interest groups become more important and distributional issues accordingly more significant, political life tends to be more divisive. The divisiveness of distributional issues, and the fact that they make relatively stable political choices less likely, can even make societies ungovernable. Olson's view of associations grew even dimmer with time: "a society dense with narrow special-interest organizations is like a china shop filled with wrestlers battling over its contents, and breaking far more than they carry away." He further argued that "distributional coalitions," made up of associations of labor, business, and other groups that shared sectoral interests, choked off growth in those rich countries. (20%)

(d) Make your comments on this debate between Olson and those who support theories of civil society and social capital. According to Olson, why would proliferation of social associations obstruct development?

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2. The paragraphs presented in 2a are excerpts from John H. Goldthorpe's book, *On Sociology*, published in 2000. Please translate these paragraphs into Chinese and then answer 2b.

2a.

There would seem to be broad agreement on at least three characteristics of sociological ethnography that set it in contrast with survey work. First, it is research undertaken in 'natural' situations, as opposed to ones specifically set up for research purposes, such as that of the formal interview (or laboratory experiment). Secondly, it is research conducted via the ethnographer's own observation, in some degree 'participant', with in the situation or situations studied, supplemented by interviews with actors of an informal, unstructured kind—'interviews as conversation'. And, thirdly, it is research aimed at the elucidation of actors' own definitions of their situation and of the meanings that they give to their actions within it, rather than, or at least prior to, the imposition of the investigator's concepts, as must in some degree occur where formal interview schedules of questionnaires are used. But, given these characteristics, the following issue then inevitably arises. When the ethnographer is 'in the field'—in the locale of the ethnography—what principles of selection should guide the observation and conversations in which he or she actually engages? Since anything approaching total coverage will rarely be feasible, just *who* should be observed and questioned and, in turn, have *their* patterns of meaningful action and *their* understanding of the lifeworld of the locale recorded and, ultimately, analyzed?

In ethnographic work in classical social anthropology, much reliance was in fact placed on 'local authorities', otherwise know as 'key informant'. It would have seem to have been accepted that such individuals could be identified in a fairly unproblematic way and that, with some prompting and checking, they could provide the basis for adequate accounts of at least the major institutional and cultural features of the (mostly tribal) societies that were studied. Whether such a degree in key informants' accounts was justified may well be doubted. But, for present purposes, the more relevant point is that, in the case of ethnography undertaken in modern societies, the idea of such informants pronouncing authoritatively on monolithic cultures is not one that could be given any very serious consideration. Nor indeed is it. In textbooks

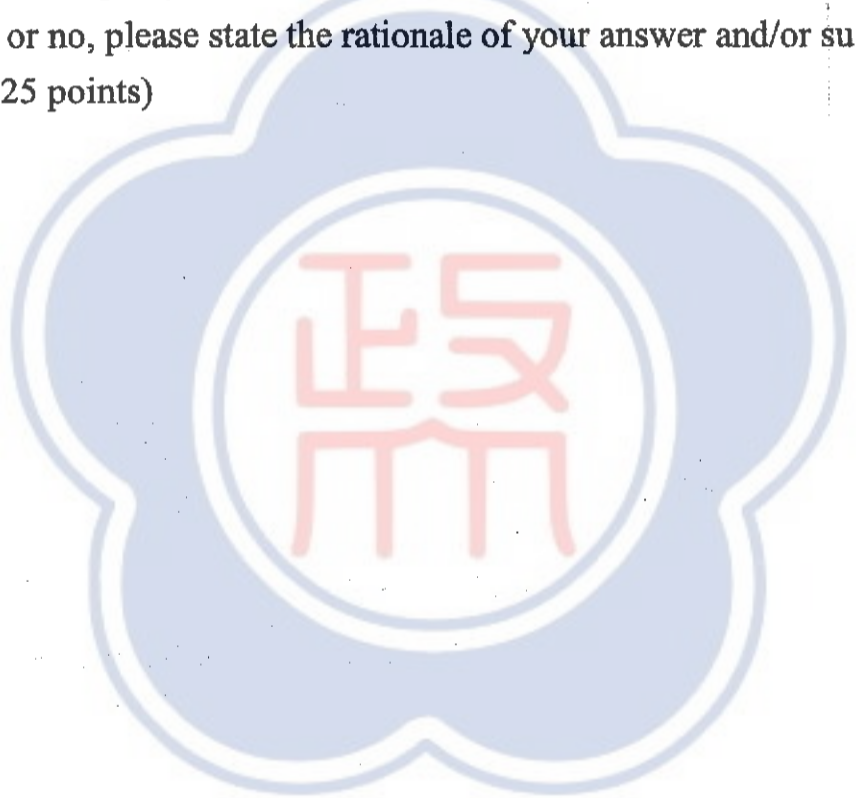
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on ethnographic methods for sociologists problem of variation within locales are generally recognized and so in turn are ones of selection—or, that is, of sampling—in the course of data collection. (25 分)

2b. Considering Goldthorpe's concern about the lack of variation within locales or the possible selection bias in ethnographies, which is essentially a question about the validity of inference or generalization of ethnographic findings, would you think that ethnographers undertaking studies in modern societies should adopt procedures that are in some way or other based on the probabilistic sampling? Or, Goldthorpe's concern might be completely off the mark, since the research purpose of ethnography is very different from survey work and hence the question of sampling bias should not be a concern of ethnographers at all? Other than answering yes or no, please state the rationale of your answer and/or suggest alternative sampling designs. (25 points)



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