Let \( p = 2d + 1 \) be a prime bigger than 3. We use quantum invariants to define an invariant of closed oriented 3-manifolds, \( j_p \), which lies in the non-negative integers. We show that \( j_p \) is an invariant of weak \( p \)-congruence. Let \( h(M) \) denote the Heegaard genus of a closed oriented 3-manifold \( M \), and \( c(M) \) denote its cut number. We show

\[
0 \leq c(M) \leq \frac{j_p(M)}{d-1} \leq g(M).
\]

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