



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
June 2012

Sociology

SCLY3

Unit 3

Wednesday 13 June 2012 9.00 am to 10.30 am

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Examining Body** for this paper is AQA. The **Paper Reference** is SCLY3.
- This paper is divided into **four** sections.
- Choose **one** section.
- Do **not** answer questions from more than one section.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- Questions carrying 18 marks or more should be answered in continuous prose. In these questions you will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Choose **one** section. Do **not** answer questions from more than one section.

Section A: Beliefs in Society

If you choose this section, answer questions

0	1
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 and

0	2
---	---

and either question

0	3
---	---

 or question

0	4
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Total for this section: 60 marks

Read **Item A** below and answer questions

0	1
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 and

0	2
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 that follow.

Item A

Sociologists disagree about the role of religion in society. Functionalists, for example, see religion mainly as a positive force. However, Marxists see religion as a tool of capitalism. They argue that it acts to justify inequality, helping to keep the poor satisfied by giving them hope of better times to come and preventing social unrest and revolution.

Feminists see religion as a force for subordination and patriarchal oppression. This view is supported by evidence such as the differential treatment of women in religious congregations.

Other sociologists argue that such evidence is out of date and that women are no longer the victims of religious oppression.

0	1
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 Identify and briefly explain **three** reasons why statistics on religious belief may not be accurate. *(9 marks)*

0	2
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 Using material from **Item A** and elsewhere, assess the view that women are no longer oppressed by religion. *(18 marks)*

EITHER

0	3
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 'Religion is still the most significant ideological influence in the world today.'
To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view? *(33 marks)*

OR

0	4
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 Critically examine sociological views of sects in society today. *(33 marks)*

Section B: Global Development

If you choose this section, answer questions **0 5** and **0 6**
and either question **0 7** or question **0 8**.

Total for this section: 60 marks

Read **Item B** below and answer questions **0 5** and **0 6** that follow.

Item B

Sociologists disagree about the strategies needed by developing countries to help their process of development. Some argue that, in order to develop, countries need to follow the path and the practices taken by the developed countries. This will usually mean adopting capitalist values, building up an industrial base and opening up trade with the rest of the world. The developed nations may help in this process by giving monetary or other forms of aid.

Others argue that, in today's world, such attempts at development are unlikely to be successful. They point out that aid is rarely given freely, and may come with political as well as economic strings attached.

0 5 Identify and briefly explain **three** ways in which the activities of transnational corporations may contribute to development. *(9 marks)*

0 6 Using material from **Item B** and elsewhere, assess the view that foreign aid may be harmful to developing countries. *(18 marks)*

EITHER

0 7 'Modernisation and dependency theories are both limited in their ability to explain how the world is changing today.'
To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view? *(33 marks)*

OR

0 8 'Development needs will always take priority over safeguarding the environment.'
To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view? *(33 marks)*

Turn over for Section C

Turn over ►

Section C: Mass Media

If you choose this section, answer questions **0 9** and **1 0**
and either question **1 1** or question **1 2**.

Total for this section: 60 marks

Read **Item C** below and answer questions **0 9** and **1 0** that follow.

Item C

In understanding how the mass media work and influence our society, much attention has been given to the process of stereotyping. Stereotypes generalise about groups as a whole and ignore the different characteristics of individual members.

Sociological research on ethnicity, disability, gender, social class and age has revealed significant stereotyping by the media. For example, minority ethnic groups and young people are often represented as a source of social problems. Portrayals of such groups are often simplistic and far from accurate.

However, such labelling may bring in bigger audiences or sell more newspapers.

0 9 Identify and briefly explain **three** ways in which globalisation has changed the role of the media over the past 20 years or so. *(9 marks)*

1 0 Using material from **Item C** and elsewhere, assess the view that the mass media represent young people as a problem group. *(18 marks)*

EITHER

1 1 Assess postmodernist contributions to our understanding of the role of the mass media in society today. *(33 marks)*

OR

1 2 Assess the view that the news is a social construction. *(33 marks)*

Section D: Power and Politics

If you choose this section, answer questions **1 3** and **1 4**
and either question **1 5** or question **1 6**.

Total for this section: 60 marks

Read **Item D** below and answer questions **1 3** and **1 4** that follow.

Item D

A continuing debate in sociology focuses on the nature and distribution of power. Classical elite theorists argue that power will inevitably rest in the hands of elites. Pluralists, on the other hand, argue that power is more widely spread. They argue that checks and balances in the political system ensure that no single group can monopolise power.

Lukes (2005) argues that there are different dimensions of power. He also states that power can be exercised both overtly and covertly. In a democracy, it is usual for elected politicians to hold and exercise significant overt power. Their election to office gives legitimacy to their power.

1 3 Identify and briefly explain **three** ways in which the role of the mass media in the political process has changed over the past 30 years or so. *(9 marks)*

1 4 Using material from **Item D** and elsewhere, assess the view that elected politicians today have little power. *(18 marks)*

EITHER

1 5 'There is no real difference between old-style traditional pressure groups and new social movements.'

To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view? *(33 marks)*

OR

1 6 'Politics today operates mainly on a global basis.'

To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view? *(33 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

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