



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
June 2014

Sociology

SCLY3

Unit 3 Beliefs in Society; Global Development; Mass Media; Power and Politics

Tuesday 10 June 2014 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

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 **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
---	---

 and

0	2
---	---

 that follow.

Item A

Sociologists disagree about the nature and extent of religious belief and practice in societies today. One difficulty in assessing religiosity is the unreliability of statistics. There are no turnstiles in churches to measure attendance, and occasional head counts of worshippers can be misleading. Similarly, surveys on belief lack validity as people do not always tell the truth.

Sociologists such as Davie argue that the nature of religious membership and practice has changed and that belief has become a more private affair. Other sociologists argue that some groups – for example, the young – find traditional churches and religions unattractive, and now search elsewhere for meaning and for the fulfilment of their spiritual needs.

0	1
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 Identify and briefly explain **three** arguments **against** the view that secularisation has occurred worldwide over the past 30 years or so, **apart from** those referred to in **Item A**.
[9 marks]

0	2
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 Using material from **Item A** and elsewhere, assess the view that traditional churches are experiencing declining attendances mainly because they are no longer attracting the young.
[18 marks]

Either

0	3
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 ‘Religion today helps societies to remain stable and to avoid conflict.’
To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view?
[33 marks]

or

0	4
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 Evaluate feminist views on the role of religion in society today.
[33 marks]

Section B: Global Development

If you choose this section, answer questions

0	5
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 and

0	6
---	---

and either question

0	7
---	---

 or question

0	8
---	---

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Total for this section: 60 marks

Read **Item B** below and answer questions

0	5
---	---

 and

0	6
---	---

 that follow.

Item B

Modernisation theorists such as Rostow assume that a similar path to development will be followed by all societies. This path will lead to the replacement of traditional values by the adoption of modern industrial values. This assumption sees development through industrialisation as something that all societies should want and should strive for.

However, not all sociologists agree with this view of development. Some argue that, although a western-style model of industrialisation may bring some benefits, such as a rise in employment or gross domestic product, it may also bring many problems. For example, the move towards an industrial society may threaten many aspects of the traditional way of life.

0	5
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 Identify and briefly explain **three** criticisms of the role of transnational corporations in the process of development. **[9 marks]**

0	6
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 Using material from **Item B** and elsewhere, assess the view that, while industrialisation may bring some benefits to a developing country, it may also bring many problems. **[18 marks]**

Either

0	7
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 'Neo-liberal and world system theories provide helpful explanations of development in the world today.'

To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view? **[33 marks]**

or

0	8
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 Evaluate sociological arguments and evidence relating to the future of global population growth. **[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

Sociologists have been concerned about the ways in which certain groups are represented by the mass media. For example, some argue that young males are often stereotyped as delinquent or engaging in various forms of anti-social behaviour. Similarly, Newman (2006) argues that when there is a focus on the working class in the press or on television, the report is usually unflattering or presents them as a problem, for example as 'chavs' or as welfare cheats.

However, some sociologists argue that such stereotyping is less of a concern today. They argue that the media now present a balanced picture and provide a true representation of reality.

0 9 Identify and briefly explain **three** criticisms that Marxists may make of changes in media ownership and control. **[9 marks]**

1 0 Using material from **Item C** and elsewhere, assess the view that media representations of age and social class today are no longer stereotypical. **[18 marks]**

Either

1 1 Evaluate the effects of globalisation on the role of the media in society over the past 30 years or so. **[33 marks]**

or

1 2 'There is a direct link between the violence and anti-social behaviour shown through the mass media and the violent behaviour of some individuals and groups in society today.'

To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view? **[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

Classical elite theorists Mosca and Pareto differ in their analyses of society. However, both conclude that societies are run by elite groups. These elites hold the powerful positions in society and make all the key decisions. This means that the majority of the population have very little power, and very little say in how society is run.

However, not all sociologists agree with this view. Some argue that in society today there are checks and balances in the system to prevent such elite dominance. As a result, everyone has access to power. Others argue that elites still exist, but that the nature of those elites has changed.

1 3 Identify and briefly explain **three** factors that may influence how people vote in elections. **[9 marks]**

1 4 Using material from **Item D** and elsewhere, assess the view that there are no elites in society today. **[18 marks]**

Either

1 5 Evaluate the role of political parties in the political process today. **[33 marks]**

or

1 6 'The state today has little involvement in the everyday lives of its citizens.'
To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view? **[33 marks]**

END OF QUESTIONS

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