

BOARD OF STUDIES  
NEW SOUTH WALES

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

2000

# SOCIETY AND CULTURE

2/3 UNIT (COMMON)

*(70 Marks)*

*Time allowed—Two hours  
(Plus 5 minutes reading time)*

## **DIRECTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- Attempt **THREE** questions.
- **Section I** (30 marks)      The question in this section is **COMPULSORY**.
- **Section II** (40 marks)      Attempt **TWO** questions, each from a different Depth Study.
- Answer each question in a **SEPARATE** Writing Booklet.
- You may ask for extra Writing Booklets if you need them.

**SECTION I****Marks****CONCEPTS AND METHODOLOGIES OF THE SYLLABUS**

(30 marks)

The question in this Section is **COMPULSORY**.

Answer the question in a **SEPARATE** Writing Booklet.

Allow about 50 minutes for this question.

**QUESTION 1**

Parts (a), (b) and (c) are worth six marks each. Part (d) is worth twelve marks.

- (a) Social life is a dynamic, interactive, all-at-once process. **6**

Using any **TWO** of the five fundamental course concepts, explain this dynamic, interactive process.

- (b) Identify **TWO** changes in technology that will shape Australia's future. **6**

Outline the social and cultural effects that may arise due to these technological changes.

- (c) One of the keys to successful social research is choosing the appropriate methodology. **6**

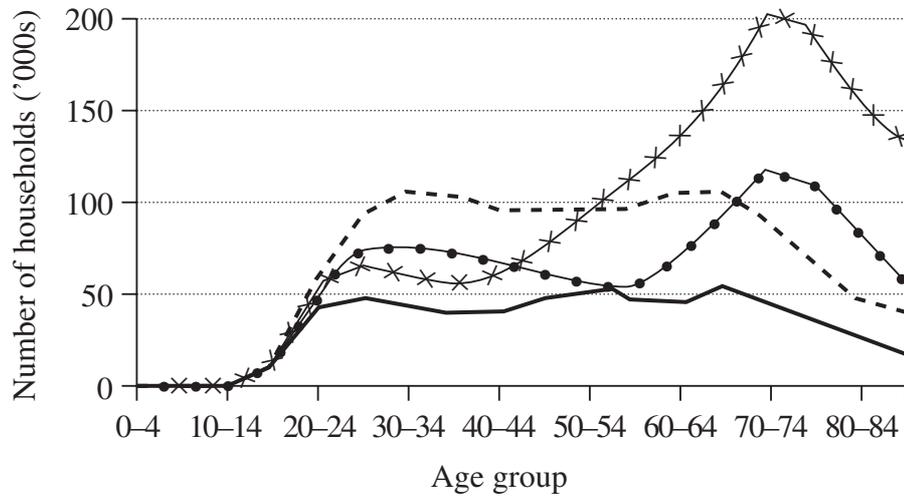
Evaluate **ONE** research method that you have used to gather information on a social situation or issue during this course.

## QUESTION 1 (Continued)

Marks

(d)

## CHANGES IN ONE-PERSON HOUSEHOLDS



## ONE-PERSON HOUSEHOLDS

— Males, 1996      ●●● Males, 2021  
 - - - Females, 1996      ××× Females, 2021

From Sydney Morning Herald, 29 October 1999. Reproduced with permission

- (i) Identify TWO trends illustrated in the graph. 2
- (ii) Describe TWO institutional changes that may arise because of the trends shown in the graph. 4
- (iii) What social action may be needed to deal with these institutional changes? 6

**SECTION II**  
**DEPTH STUDIES**

(40 marks)

Attempt TWO questions, each from a different Depth Study.

Answer the question in a SEPARATE Writing Booklet.

Each question is worth 20 marks.

Allow about 35 minutes for each question.

**QUESTION 2 Intercultural Communication**

EITHER

- (a) Culture is viewed as having a major influence on the communication process.

Critically discuss how culture affects both our own behaviour and the way we interpret the behaviour of others.

In your answer, refer to THREE of the following:

- identity
- values
- mores
- stereotypes
- language
- socialisation processes.

OR

- (b) You are a cultural adviser to an Australian delegation visiting another country.

Choose a particular cultural group you have studied and:

- (i) outline what the Australian delegation needs to know about that culture to assist intercultural communication;
- (ii) describe THREE ways in which misunderstandings could occur between people from the Australian delegation and people in the country they are visiting;
- (iii) propose ways in which better intercultural understanding could be achieved between the groups.

**QUESTION 3 Religion and Belief**

EITHER

- (a) Ritual is religion in action.

Critically discuss this statement with reference to any TWO religions (tribal or world) that you have studied.

In your answer, refer to any TWO of the following:

- functions of sacred persons
- search for meaning
- belief
- shrines and symbols
- stories
- celebrations and observances.

OR

- (b) Religion is no longer as influential in daily life as it once was.

Using evidence from ONE religion (tribal or world), critically evaluate the significance of religion in contemporary society.

In your response, refer to THREE of the following:

- secularisation
- life cycle
- systems of ethics
- spiritual leaders
- new religions
- ideology.

**QUESTION 4 Social Inequality, Prejudice and Discrimination**

EITHER

(a)



These headlines suggest increasing equality in Australia.

To what extent is the perception of equality different from the reality, for some Australians?

In your answer, refer to **THREE** of the following:

- social class
- race
- age
- gender
- location factors
- disability.

OR

## QUESTION 4 (Continued)

(b) Prejudice and discrimination are often directed at groups who are considered to be different.

- (i) Identify TWO groups that have experienced prejudice and discrimination.
- (ii) Examine the possible causes of prejudice and discrimination experienced by these groups.
- (iii) Describe the possible consequences of prejudice and discrimination for these groups.
- (iv) Suggest possible ways to reduce prejudice and discrimination.

## QUESTION 5 Work, Leisure and Sport

EITHER

(a) Work patterns, attitudes and relationships are continuing to change.

Critically discuss this statement as a description of the changing nature and availability of work in Australia today.

What implications do these changes have for work in Australia in the future?

OR

(b) Critically analyse the social role and the place in personal life of EITHER sport OR leisure in contemporary Australian society.

In your answer, refer to THREE of the following:

- identity
- class, status and gender
- technology
- continuity and change
- marketing
- customs, norms and values.

**Please turn over**

**QUESTION 6 Popular Culture**

EITHER

- (a) Describe the characteristics of a popular culture you have studied.

Critically discuss the relationship between the producers and consumers of that popular culture.

In your answer, refer to THREE of the following:

- access
- institutional power
- consumption and ideology
- globalisation
- socialisation through popular culture
- power and influence.

OR

- (b) (i) What is popular culture?

- (ii) In the popular culture you have studied, to what extent are individuals influenced by any THREE of the following factors?

- heroes
- icons
- myths
- events
- fads
- cults
- paraphernalia

- (iii) How can individuals influence the future evolution of that popular culture?

**End of paper**