

327/01

SOCIOLOGY – SOC 1

UNIT 1 - ACQUIRING CULTURE

A.M. WEDNESDAY, 23 May 2007

(1 hour)

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer all questions from **ONE** option only.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The question carries 60 marks.

The number of marks is given in square brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

The time you spend on a question should be in proportion to the marks available.

You are reminded that marking will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

*Answer all the questions from **one** option only.*

Option 1: Families and Culture

Working mothers

Mothers' increasing amount of paid work outside the home is seen as having far-reaching effects on family relationships and **gender roles**.

Some see these effects as negative but others are more optimistic.

A study found that families' and partners' fears that mothers are becoming more 'work-centred' at the expense of their family responsibilities were not correct.

Mothers and fathers thought that the mother's work had a good effect on their family relationships. The mother's job provided skills and money that meant they could meet their children's needs better.

Mothers' relationships with their partners were better too because they shared the financial burden of providing for their family and had more common interests. Some mothers who had to bring home work resented the time they spent on this. Some fathers felt their partner lacked time for being a couple and paying attention to their children. Nevertheless women still carry the burden of higher levels of domestic labour.

Source: Adapted from <http://www.jrf.org.uk>

1. *Answer **all** of the following questions.*

- (a) Explain what is meant by the term **gender roles**. [5]
- (b) Using the extract above, identify ways in which a mother's paid work may affect family life. [5]
- (c) Using relevant examples, outline and explain why there has been an increase in the numbers of women working since 1950. [20]
- (d) Discuss reasons for changes in family structures over the past 50 years. [30]

Option 2: Youth Culture

Youth and Social Change

The past twenty years have seen much **social change** affecting young people's lives in the United Kingdom. The 1980s and 90s saw the loss of suitable long term jobs for young people. There has been a rise in part-time casual work.

Under-25s are finding it difficult to gain state benefits and have little access to housing. There have been cuts in state financial support to students in further education. Traditional routes to adulthood, such as having a job or family are being closed.

Research on young people's political involvement has emphasised their low level of participation in politics, as shown in their membership of political parties, voting behaviour, and support for mainstream politics.

Popular images of young people in the media mirror and reinforce the representation of youth as a problem. Youth crime is seen as an issue, as is young people's participation in the more dramatic forms of youth culture.

The Government is concerned about youth offending and its links to educational failure and unemployment. It has prioritised the need to develop initiatives to increase young people's sense of having a part to play in society.

Adapted from <http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk>

2. Answer **all** of the following questions.

- (a) Explain what is meant by the term **social change**. [5]
- (b) Using the extract above, identify changes that have taken place in young people's lives. [5]
- (c) Using relevant examples, outline and explain reasons why young people are seen as a problem for society. [20]
- (d) Discuss how changes in society affect youth cultures. [30]

Option 3: Community and Culture



Online communities

Writers have been quick to label computer network users as outcasts excluded from normal society. However, the users of Internet based groups are not socially isolated ‘outcasts’ and their time online does not have a bad effect on their offline friendships, social networks and **community**.

Although some people go online in search of new friendships with distant people, the majority of chatroom users join up to communicate with people they already know.

It is often said that people who are socially isolated and lonely seek friendships online. If this is true, and large numbers of people choose to become members of online communities, this could have a negative effect upon society as a whole.

Research has found that members of chatrooms and Internet communities are well connected, social people who use the internet to do research and to communicate with existing friends.

In addition, community networks are based on the principle that computer communication can be beneficial for dealing with local problems and building a sense of community.

Source: Adapted from research by Robin Hamman

3. Answer **all** of the following questions.

- (a) Explain what is meant by the term **community**. [5]
- (b) Using the extract above, identify ways in which people may use the internet. [5]
- (c) Using relevant examples, outline and explain why communities are important to society.[20]
- (d) Discuss how membership of a community can give a person a sense of identity. [30]