

General Certificate of Education
January 2005
Advanced Level Examination



SOCIOLOGY
Unit 4

SCY4

Thursday 20 January 2005 Morning Session

In addition to this paper you will require:

a 12-page answer book.

You may use a calculator.

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or 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 SCY4.
- This paper is divided into **three** Sections. Choose **one** Section. Do **not** answer questions from more than one Section.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want marked.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- Mark allocations are shown in brackets.
- You will be assessed on your ability to use an appropriate form and style of writing, to organise relevant information clearly and coherently, and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.
- The degree of legibility of your handwriting and the level of accuracy of your spelling, punctuation and grammar will also be taken into account.

SCY4

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

SECTION A – POWER AND POLITICS

If you choose this Section, answer Question 1 **and either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

Total for this Section: 60 marks

- 1 Read the item below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

Item A

Some analysts have come to question the power of the state in the modern world. This is because multinational corporations, with branches in a number of different countries, form an increasingly important part of the modern capitalist system. These companies, it is argued, are wielding an increasing amount of power on a global scale and challenging the traditional authority of governments. 5

Some say, for example, that the British government's freedom of action is severely limited by such companies. In particular, the multinationals' decisions about where to invest money and where to open and close factories can have a tremendous impact on the British economy and the political standing of the government. It is argued that with modern capitalism, the largest multinationals have power that is beyond the reach of the state, and that attempts to control them are unlikely to be successful. 10

Source: adapted from M. HARALAMBOS & M. HOLBORN, *Sociology: Themes and Perspectives*, 5th edition (HarperCollins Publishers Ltd.) 2000

- (a) Identify and briefly explain **two** ways in which a state might attempt to control the power of multinational corporations. (8 marks)
- (b) Using information from **Item A** and elsewhere, examine some of the evidence for the view that the power of the state is decreasing. (12 marks)

EITHER

- 2 “General Elections now seem to be opportunities for a growing proportion of the population to show their disenchantment with politics and politicians.”

To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view of voting behaviour and attitudes to politics in Britain today? (40 marks)

OR

- 3 “The role of political parties in the political process has become increasingly marginalised and unimportant.”

To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view of political parties and other movements in the political process today? (40 marks)

SECTION B – RELIGION

If you choose this Section, answer Question 4 **and either** Question 5 **or** Question 6.

Total for this Section: 60 marks

- 4 Read the item below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

Item B

According to Peter Berger, there now exists a body of thought in the historical and social sciences that is usually called secularisation theory. Most broadly, secularisation theorists such as Bryan Wilson propose a link between modernity and secularity, in the sense that modernisation has brought about a decline in the importance of religion both on the level of institutions and for individuals. 5

However, it is fair to say that the majority of sociologists dealing with religion today no longer accept this simple link. The major change-of-mind has been the abandonment of the old secularisation theory because the theory seemed less and less capable of making sense of the empirical evidence from different parts of the world.

This evidence now shows that the world, with some notable exceptions, is as religious as it has ever been, and in some places is more religious than ever. It seems clear that in much of the world today there are extremely powerful upsurges of religious movements and that, to put it simply, most of the world is bubbling with religious passions. 10

- (a) Identify and briefly explain **two** pieces of evidence that might lead sociologists such as Bryan Wilson to conclude that modernity brings with it a decline in the importance of religion. (8 marks)
- (b) Examine some of the arguments and evidence that might lead some sociologists to argue that, “most of the world is bubbling with religious passions” (**Item B**, line 13). (12 marks)

EITHER

- 5 “Religion can be both a conservative force and an initiator of social change.”

To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view of religion? (40 marks)

OR

- 6 “Religion may be an important way in which some social groups express their unity. However, it can also contribute to social divisions and social conflict.”

To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view of religion? (40 marks)

TURN OVER FOR SECTION C

Turn over ►

SECTION C – WORLD SOCIOLOGY

If you choose this Section, answer Question 7 **and either** Question 8 **or** Question 9.

Total for this Section: 60 marks

- 7 Read the item below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

Item C

Concern for the environment has become a global issue and environmentalism has increasingly made claims to represent the whole of humanity. This, it is argued, is because concern for the environment unites people irrespective of national affiliations. There have been many instances in the past of local environments being damaged to satisfy the economic needs of developing states. However, many environmental problems do not respect national boundaries, but impact on everyone. 5

It may be that some environmental crises are more or less confined to one location. However, others occur in one place but have a transnational impact, such as the nuclear explosion at the Chernobyl plant in Ukraine in 1986, which spread radioactive fallout over vast areas of Europe. 10

Some of these crises may link to a single event or action, others to a combination of human actions. If solutions to such crises are to be found, they may not be in the adoption of greener, more environmentally friendly policies by individual nation states but through a requirement for international cooperation and action on a global scale.

*Source: adapted from R. COHEN & P. KENNEDY, *Global Sociology*, (Palgrave Macmillan) 2000*

- (a) Identify and briefly explain **two** examples of environmental problems linked to development that might have a “transnational impact” **apart from** that referred to in **Item C**. (8 marks)
- (b) Briefly examine the view that development is inevitably damaging to the environment. (12 marks)

EITHER

- 8 “What at first may seem like development too often results in dependency.”

To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view of social and economic change in Third World countries? (40 marks)

OR

- 9 “Whilst future global overpopulation remains a possibility, it is unlikely. Global development will almost certainly bring about a slowing of population growth as standards of living rise and cultures of developing countries change.”

To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view? (40 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS