

General Certificate of Education
June 2006
Advanced Level Examination



SOCIOLOGY
Unit 5

SC5W

Friday 16 June 2006 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

For this paper you must have:

- a 12-page answer book

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 SC5W.
- This paper contains **two** Sections. Answer the question in **Section A** and **one** question from **Section B**.
- 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.
- The marks for questions (or part questions) are shown in brackets.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers. Questions (or part questions) carrying 10 or more marks should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in these answers.

SECTION A: THEORY AND METHODS

Answer **all** parts of this Section.

Total for this section: 20 marks

- 1** Read **Items A** and **B** and answer parts (a) to (d) which follow.

Item A

Functionalists argue that social behaviour is structured. This means that relationships between members of society are organised in terms of rules. Social relationships therefore fit into patterns and have regularity about them. Within such relationships, behaviour is regulated by agreed norms and values. These provide the guidelines for appropriate behaviour and help to maintain social order. Having established the existence of a social structure, functionalist analysis then considers how that structure functions and how the different parts of society work together as a whole, like an ‘organism’. 5

Functionalists are not the only sociologists to produce a structural analysis. For instance, Marxists and feminists, from different ideological standpoints, each argue that human behaviour is shaped and to a certain extent determined by social structures. 10

Item B

The relationship between sociologists, sociological research and government social policy is complex. Some sociologists argue that any government would be unwise to formulate social policies without first listening to the advice and considering the data available from relevant sociological researchers. For example, they argue that governments can produce better policies on the family, education, health, poverty and crime by basing them on sociological research findings. 5

However, others put forward the view that government ministers will always be reluctant to listen to advice from sociologists. They argue that sociologists are inevitably seen as biased, and that much of their research suffers from distortions resulting from their ideological standpoint. 10

- (a) Explain what is meant by the term ‘ideological’ (**Item A**, line 9 and **Item B**, line 10). (2 marks)
- (b) Identify and briefly explain **two** ways in which human behaviour may be ‘shaped and to a certain extent determined by social structures’ (**Item A**, line 10). (4 marks)
- (c) Identify and briefly explain **two** criticisms of the functionalist analysis of society. (4 marks)
- (d) Briefly examine the view that sociological research has little influence on government social policies (**Item B**). (10 marks)

SECTION B: THEORY AND METHODS

Answer **one** question from this Section.

Total for this section: 40 marks

EITHER

- 2 Evaluate the usefulness of quantitative methods in sociological research. *(40 marks)*

OR

- 3 Assess the contribution of interactionist theory and research to our understanding of society. *(40 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page