

General Certificate of Education  
January 2007  
Advanced Level Examination



**SOCIOLOGY**  
**Unit 4**

**SCY4**

Monday 22 January 2007 9.00 am to 10.30 am

**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 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 to be marked.

**Information**

- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- The marks for questions (or part questions) are shown in brackets.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

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

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**SECTION A: POWER AND POLITICS**

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

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**Total for this section: 60 marks**

**1** Read **Item A** and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

**Item A**

Voting behaviour and the factors affecting voting patterns have been the focus of many studies by sociologists over the past thirty years. Such studies have identified a range of social, cultural and economic factors that influence the way people choose to cast their vote. In recent elections, sociologists' attention has tended to focus less on the factors affecting individual voters and more on the general concern that a high proportion of the electorate were choosing not to vote at all. 5

Some have explained this phenomenon as the result of political apathy or people getting bored with politics and politicians. Others have interpreted it as some kind of protest action. Some sociologists go further and claim that many people now believe that voting in elections is an outdated and ineffective way of getting change in society. They see direct action as a far more effective means of bringing about the changes they want. 10

- (a) Identify and briefly explain some of the social, cultural and economic factors, **apart from** those referred to in **Item A**, that might affect the voting behaviour of individuals. *(8 marks)*
- (b) Briefly examine the view that the nature of political participation has changed very little over the past thirty years. *(12 marks)*

**EITHER**

**2** 'Power in society today rests more with the leaders of business and industry than with politicians or with the military.'

To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view of the nature and distribution of power in society today? *(40 marks)*

**OR**

**3** 'The role of the state has been reduced in modern societies. Its economic role and its wider influence are much less than they used to be.'

To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view of the role of the modern state in the political process today? *(40 marks)*

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**SECTION B: RELIGION**

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

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**Total for this section: 60 marks**

**4** Read **Item B** and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

**Item B**

**Item B** cannot be reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

- (a) Identify and briefly explain some of the characteristic features of sects, **apart from** those referred to in **Item B**. *(8 marks)*
- (b) Briefly examine the view that traditional churches have lost status and influence in society over the past thirty years. *(12 marks)*

**EITHER**

**5** ‘Religion today is more about believing than belonging.’

To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view of the relationship between religious beliefs, religious organisations and social groups in society today? *(40 marks)*

**OR**

**6** Assess the extent to which Marxist and feminist theories help our understanding of religion in society today. *(40 marks)*

**Turn over for Section C**

**Turn over ►**

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**SECTION C: WORLD SOCIOLOGY**

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

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**Total for this section: 60 marks**

7 Read **Item C** and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

**Item C**

It has been argued that giving monetary aid to Third World countries has been ineffective and has produced little in the way of positive steps towards development. Some argue that much of the money given in the past has been wasted. This now means that when appeals come to give more help to Third World countries, these people argue against giving such help. They also argue that the cultures and values of many Third World countries hinder their progress towards development. 5

However, not everybody accepts these views. Some claim that ending Third World poverty is possible and that the rich industrialised countries must give more monetary help. For instance, many argue for the cancellation of the debts owed by Third World countries, since paying the interest on these debts has crippled many economies. There must also be improved co-operation between the rich countries and the Third World. 10

- (a) Identify and briefly explain some of the reasons, **apart from** those referred to in **Item C**, why some argue that monetary aid could be harmful to Third World countries. (8 marks)
- (b) Briefly examine the ways in which ‘the cultures and values of many Third World countries’ might hinder their development (**Item C**, line 5). (12 marks)

**EITHER**

8 ‘The drive for industrialisation and the inevitable growth in urbanisation make it likely that protection of the environment will be a fairly low priority for most countries seeking to develop.’

Assess this view of the relationship between development and the environment. (40 marks)

**OR**

9 ‘There is a growing cultural, political and economic inter-dependence between First and Third World countries.’

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

**END OF QUESTIONS**