

General Certificate of Education
January 2007
Advanced Level Examination



SOCIOLOGY
Unit 6

SCY6

Tuesday 30 January 2007 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 SCY6.
- This paper is divided into **two** sections. Choose **one** section and answer **all** parts of the question from that 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.

Choose **one** section and answer **all** parts of the question from that section.

SECTION A: CRIME AND DEVIANCE

Total for this section: 60 marks

- 1** Read **Item A** and answer parts (a) to (c) which follow.

Item A

‘Strain’ theory, first developed by Merton (1938), argues that rule-breaking is the result of a strain between society’s culturally approved goals and the legitimate means of achieving them. Deviance occurs if society fails to provide its members with legitimate ways of achieving the goals it sets them, or if it places more emphasis on achieving these goals by any means necessary, rather than ‘playing by the rules’.

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For example, Merton argued, American society emphasises that its members should strive for the goal of ‘money success’. However, the working class in particular are often denied the chance to achieve this goal via the legitimate opportunity structure of educational and career success. Faced with cultural pressure to gain wealth, they therefore ‘innovate’, adopting illegitimate means such as theft. For Merton, this explains the higher crime rate found in this social class.

- (a) Identify and briefly explain **two** criticisms made of Merton’s ‘strain’ theory (**Item A**).

(8 marks)

This part of the question includes assessment of your understanding of the connections between Crime and Deviance and sociological theory.

- (b) Examine the relationship between gender and deviance, making use of material from **two or more** of the following areas: families and households; health; mass media; education; wealth, poverty and welfare; work and leisure; power and politics; religion; world sociology.

(12 marks)

This part of the question includes assessment of your understanding of the connections between Crime and Deviance and other substantive topics you have studied.

- (c) Assess the usefulness of statistical data in the study of crime and deviance.

(40 marks)

This part of the question includes assessment of your understanding of the connections between Crime and Deviance and sociological methods.

SECTION B: STRATIFICATION AND DIFFERENTIATION

Total for this section: 60 marks

2 Read **Item B** and answer parts (a) to (c) which follow.

Item B

Sociologists often use occupation as an indicator of a person's social class. There are several reasons for doing so. Social classes are groups whose members share similar life chances, and occupation can be shown to have important effects on life chances. For example, in relation to health and education, people in non-manual occupations, such as doctors and office workers, generally enjoy longer life expectancy and their children have higher educational achievements. 5

However, there are also problems involved in using occupation as an indicator of social class. For example, where a couple both work but have occupations normally seen as belonging to different classes, should we classify them together, as many official sources have done, or separately, as many feminists have done? 10

(a) Identify and briefly explain:

(i) **one** advantage of using occupation as an indicator of social class, **apart from** that referred to in **Item B**; (4 marks)

and

(ii) **one** problem of using occupation as an indicator of social class, **apart from** that referred to in **Item B**. (4 marks)

This part of the question includes assessment of your understanding of the connections between Stratification and Differentiation and sociological methods.

(b) Examine the relevance of age differences **and** ethnic differences to our understanding of **one or more** of the following areas: families and households; health; mass media; education; wealth, poverty and welfare; work and leisure; power and politics; religion; world sociology. (12 marks)

This part of the question includes assessment of your understanding of the connections between Stratification and Differentiation and other substantive topics you have studied.

(c) Assess the claim that Marx's explanation of the nature and position of the working class is no longer relevant today. (40 marks)

This part of the question includes assessment of your understanding of the connections between Stratification and Differentiation and sociological theory.

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page