

General Certificate of Education
June 2007
Advanced Level Examination



SOCIOLOGY
Unit 4

SCY4

Friday 15 June 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 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.
- Questions and part questions carrying 12 or more marks should be answered in continuous prose. In these questions and part questions 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. 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 **Item A** below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

Item A, adapted from Sociology: Themes and Perspectives,
is not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

- (a) Identify and briefly explain some key aspects of the role of political parties in the political process. *(8 marks)*
- (b) Using material from **Item A** and elsewhere, briefly examine the view that ‘ideological differences between the main political parties are no longer significant’ (**Item A**, lines 6 – 7). *(12 marks)*

EITHER

- 2** Evaluate the usefulness of Marxist theories to our understanding of the nature and distribution of power in society today. *(40 marks)*

OR

- 3** Evaluate the role of pressure and interest groups 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 **Item B** below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

Item B

The role of religion in society has been the subject of many arguments between sociologists from different theoretical perspectives. For instance, Marxists and feminists see religion linked to power and control and the need for a ruling group to maintain its dominance. For Marxists, this group is the ruling class of the capitalist system while, for most feminists, men are seen as the dominant group. In both cases, religion is used as a tool by the powerful to help maintain their position. 5

Functionalists, on the other hand, see religion as fulfilling essential needs for society. In their analysis, they conclude that society needs certain functions to be fulfilled to maintain its good order. Religion is one of the means of fulfilling some of those functions.

However, many post-modernists argue that the views put forward from these classic sociological perspectives are out of date and of little relevance today. They argue that in a post-modern society a new explanation of the role of religion is needed. 10

- (a) Identify and briefly explain some of the ways in which functionalists see religion meeting the needs of society and/or individuals. (8 marks)
- (b) Using material from **Item B** and elsewhere, briefly examine post-modernist views on the nature and role of religion. (12 marks)

EITHER

5 ‘Religious practice varies from place to place and time to time, but the need for religion remains constant.’

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

OR

6 ‘Religion is more a cause of conflict than of harmony in society.’

To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view? (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 **Item C** below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

Item C

Infectious diseases such as tuberculosis (TB) have been virtually eradicated in rich countries. The combination of modern medicine, improved diet and better living conditions means that the health of those in rich countries has steadily improved over the past one hundred years. However, for those living in poor countries the story is very different. For example, diseases such as HIV/Aids, TB and malaria cause more than five million deaths every year. 5

The United Nations believes that there is now a desire on the part of the richer countries to do something about this desperate problem. Much could be done to reduce the number of deaths and not all of the possible measures are expensive. However, to get something done requires energy and political will from the rich countries. It is still the case that some are very willing to talk about problems but they are less enthusiastic about taking action. 10

Source: adapted from S BOSELEY, 'The killer diseases that target the poor', *The Guardian*, 22 August 2002
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- (a) Identify and briefly explain some of the health measures that rich countries could take to help reduce the number of deaths from diseases such as those referred to in **Item C**. (8 marks)
- (b) Using material from **Item C** and elsewhere, briefly examine the view that high death rates are the main reason why future world overpopulation is unlikely. (12 marks)

EITHER

8 'Economic definitions and ways of measuring development are unsatisfactory. A much clearer and more useful picture emerges when wider social factors are included.'

Assess this view of development and underdevelopment. (40 marks)

OR

9 Assess the view that trans-national corporations are now more important than nation states in the process of global development. (40 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS