

General Certificate of Education  
January 2008  
Advanced Level Examination



**SOCIOLOGY**  
**Unit 4**

**SCY4**

Monday 21 January 2008 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.
- 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.

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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** below and answer parts (a) and (b) that follow.

**Item A**

Pareto and Mosca shared with Marx the idea that those in authority in society would always be a minority and that the majority would have little part to play in the running of the state. The holders of political authority were described as forming an elite. An elite was seen as an independent social force that could recruit both from a dominant economic class and from other ethnic, religious and social groups. Once established, an elite can exclude the mass of the population from any effective influence on political decision-making. 5

Source: adapted from J FULCHER and J SCOTT, *Sociology*, 2nd Edition, OUP, 2003  
By permission of Oxford University Press

- (a) Identify and briefly explain some of the arguments and/or evidence against the view that elites exist in Britain today. (8 marks)
- (b) Using material from **Item A** and elsewhere, briefly examine the view that the majority of people in Britain today do not have ‘any effective influence on political decision-making’ (**Item A**, lines 6–7). (12 marks)

**EITHER**

**2** ‘Political participation takes many forms in the world today, and is not just about voting in elections.’

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

**OR**

**3** ‘The role of the mass media is crucial in the political process today.’

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

**Item B**

In 1966, Wilson put forward arguments and evidence for the view that Britain was less religious than it had been one hundred years earlier. However, Stark and Bainbridge (1987) argued that Wilson was wrong in his assumptions about Britain and religion. They stated that people would always need religion and that the demand for religion was universal and stable. They believed that if one form of religion declined, another would take its place. 5

But it could be argued that today's more diverse society produces greater religious diversity and this in turn leads to increased religious vitality. As a result, there should be a great deal of religious and spiritual activity in society today.

Source: adapted from S BRUCE, *God is Dead: Secularization in the West*, Blackwell Publishing, 2002

- (a) Identify and briefly explain some of the arguments and evidence for the view that Britain is less religious now than it was in the past (**Item B**). (8 marks)
- (b) Using material from **Item B** and elsewhere, briefly examine the view that there is 'a great deal of religious and spiritual activity in society today' (**Item B**, line 9). (12 marks)

**EITHER**

**5** 'The relationship between religious beliefs, religious organisations and different social groups is complex and diverse. Different groups have different needs and priorities.'

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

**OR**

**6** Evaluate the view that new cults and sects are replacing traditional religions as the means for experiencing and expressing religious belief in the world today. (40 marks)

**Turn over for Section C**

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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** below and answer parts (a) and (b) that follow.

### Item C

Since the 1990s, sociologists have increasingly used the term ‘globalisation’. It has been one of the most influential sociological ideas of the past twenty years. However, sociologists have given the term many different meanings. Globalisation has thus become a controversial concept.

To see the globalisation process in action, consider sport and its cultures. For some, sport is a local phenomenon: a local football team or gym. However, many now argue that sport has increasingly become a part of the globalisation process. It displays worldwide dimensions. Sport now includes matters of global finance, international superstars, and teams and supporters travelling the world. The Olympics, Wimbledon and the World Cup, for example, could each be seen in the context of globalisation.

Source: adapted from J J MACIONIS and K PLUMMER, *Sociology: A Global Introduction*; Pearson Education Ltd, 2005

- (a) Identify and briefly explain some of the features of globalisation **apart from** those mentioned in **Item C**. (8 marks)
- (b) Using material from **Item C** and elsewhere, briefly examine the view that globalisation has had very few positive effects on development. (12 marks)

### EITHER

8 ‘To eliminate poverty there must be increased cooperation between the rich and poor countries.’

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

### OR

9 Assess the view that development inevitably leads to damage to the environment. (40 marks)

## END OF QUESTIONS