



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Level Examination  
June 2010

## Sociology

## SCLY3

### Unit 3

Friday 18 June 2010 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 black ink or black 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 SCLY3.
- This paper is divided into **four** sections.
- Choose **one** section.
- Do **not** answer questions from more than one section.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- Questions carrying 18 marks or more should be answered in continuous prose. In these questions you will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - 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: Beliefs in Society**

If you choose this section, answer questions 

0	1
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 and 

0	2
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and either question 

0	3
---	---

 or question 

0	4
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**Total for this section: 60 marks**

Read **Item A** below and answer questions 

0	1
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 and 

0	2
---	---

 that follow.

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0	1
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 Identify and briefly explain **three** reasons why membership of sects may be short-lived. *(9 marks)*

0	2
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 Using material from **Item A** and elsewhere, examine the view that cults and sects have taken the place of established churches as the most important religious and spiritual movements in society today. *(18 marks)*

**EITHER**

0	3
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 Assess the view that science has replaced religion as the main ideological influence in society today. *(33 marks)*

**OR**

0	4
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 Evaluate feminist views on the role and functions of religion in society today. *(33 marks)*

## Section B: Global Development

If you choose this section, answer questions **0 5** and **0 6**  
and either question **0 7** or question **0 8**.

**Total for this section: 60 marks**

Read **Item B** below and answer questions **0 5** and **0 6** that follow.

### Item B

The path to development is not always straightforward or without problems. Dependency theorists argue that the relationship between developed and under-developed countries can present difficulties. They see powerful developed countries gaining economic and political control over the weaker under-developed ones. This means that key decisions are not always taken in the best interests of under-developed countries and can, in fact, lead to their becoming dependent on the richer ones. 5

Similarly, it has become clear that much development comes at a cost. In some cases this might be in the form of disruption to traditional social networks or to the local economy. In addition, there might be significant damage to the environment. 10

**0 5** Identify and briefly explain **three** criticisms that other sociologists might make of the views put forward by dependency theorists. (9 marks)

**0 6** Using material from **Item B** and elsewhere, examine the view that development causes 'significant damage to the environment' (**Item B**, line 10). (18 marks)

**EITHER**

**0 7** 'Urbanisation is a necessary and desirable aspect of development.'  
To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view? (33 marks)

**OR**

**0 8** Evaluate the role of transnational corporations in the process of global development. (33 marks)

**Turn over for Section C**

**Turn over ►**

### Section C: Mass Media

If you choose this section, answer questions **0 9** and **1 0**  
and either question **1 1** or question **1 2**.

**Total for this section: 60 marks**

Read **Item C** below and answer questions **0 9** and **1 0** that follow.

#### Item C

Much sociological research on the mass media focuses on the production of the news. It is argued that the news is not an objective account of events that is simply reported and broadcast. Instead, the news is a production, a complex construction put together by journalists and editors which reflects their particular views of the world. Developments in new media and digital technology, for example mobile phones and multi-channel TV, have made the news more immediate and accessible than ever before to a wider and more diverse audience. 5

One of the factors involved in determining or shaping the content of the news is referred to as 'news values'. These values aid the decision-making process for editors and journalists, and help them to decide which stories to include in, and which to leave out of, a newspaper or programme. Such values are further evidence that news is not objective and neutral, but a product of decision-making. 10

**0 9** Identify and briefly explain **three** examples of news values. (9 marks)

**1 0** Using material from **Item C** and elsewhere, examine how the new media have affected the role of the mass media in society today. (18 marks)

**EITHER**

**1 1** Evaluate Marxist theories of the ownership and control of the mass media. (33 marks)

**OR**

**1 2** Assess the effects of the mass media on popular culture. (33 marks)

### Section D: Power and Politics

If you choose this section, answer questions **1 3** and **1 4**  
and either question **1 5** or question **1 6**.

**Total for this section: 60 marks**

Read **Item D** below and answer questions **1 3** and **1 4** that follow.

#### Item D

In the past, politics was mainly the concern of governments, nation-states and the political parties within those states. However, over the past few decades, the process that sociologists collectively call globalisation has had a marked effect on the nature and process of politics. The globalising process has brought new international dimensions to a wide range of issues that in the past were dealt with by the individual nation-state. 5

As a result, governments and politicians have had to adjust to new ways of working. For example, politicians are now under much greater scrutiny from the international media than in the past because their activities are covered around the world. 10

**1 3** Identify and briefly explain **three** ways in which globalisation has affected power and politics in the world today, **apart from** those referred to in **Item D**. (9 marks)

**1 4** Using material from **Item D** and elsewhere, examine the role of the mass media in the political process today. (18 marks)

**EITHER**

**1 5** Assess the view that direct political action has become the most effective way for groups to make their views known to the government and the population at large. (33 marks)

**OR**

**1 6** Critically examine the role of political parties in the political process today. (33 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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