



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
January 2012

Sociology

SCLY4

Unit 4

Friday 27 January 2012 9.00 am to 11.00 am

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 2 hours

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 SCLY4.
- This paper is divided into **two** sections.
- Choose **one** Section and answer **all** questions in that 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 90.
- All questions should be answered in continuous prose. You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Choose **either** Section A **or** Section B and answer **all** the questions in that section.

Section A: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

You are advised to spend approximately 30 minutes on question

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You are advised to spend approximately 30 minutes on question

0	2
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You are advised to spend approximately 20 minutes on question

0	3
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You are advised to spend approximately 40 minutes on question

0	4
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Total for this section: 90 marks

Crime and Deviance

Read **Item A** below and answer the question that follows.

Item A	
Labelling theory explains how actions become labelled as criminal or deviant in society. This is a micro-approach that looks at how individuals construct society, based on their interactions with each other.	
Labelling theorists argue that an action is criminal only when society views it as criminal and that crime, therefore, is a social construction. Criminality exists only because of the laws constructed by society; deviance exists only because of the norms constructed by society.	5
Deviant or criminal individuals are labelled when their actions are discovered and provoke a reaction from society. However, this reaction will take differing forms, depending on how the nature of the action is perceived.	10

0	1
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Using material from **Item A** and elsewhere, assess the usefulness of labelling theory in explaining crime and deviance. (21 marks)

Read **Item B** below and answer the question that follows.

Item B	
Some sociologists define globalisation as an increasing interconnectedness in the world. Globalisation is multi-causal, and there are a number of key processes and events that may have aided its development, including:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● technological innovation ● global crises ● the end of the Cold War ● the growth of transnational organisations ● the expansion of free trade. 	5
Views on the impact of globalisation on crime vary. Globalisation has led to changes in the opportunities to commit crime. This has meant increases in some types of crime such as fraud, and new crimes such as cyber crime.	10

0	2
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Using material from **Item B** and elsewhere, assess the view that the process of globalisation has led to changes in both the amount of crime and the types of crime committed. (21 marks)

Methods in Context

This question requires you to **apply** your knowledge and understanding of sociological research methods to the study of this **particular** issue in **crime and deviance**.

Read **Item C** below and answer the question that follows.

Item C	
Investigating court proceedings	
One location in which crime can be investigated is the courtroom. Most criminal courts are open for the public to view proceedings.	
There is a range of courts in the United Kingdom, including Magistrates' and Crown courts. These different types of court have different practices in dealing with cases. Also, a wide range of crimes is tried in these courts.	5
The court itself follows particular procedures and processes. Some of these may not take place in front of members of the public. Additionally, those procedures that can be observed by the public are often complex and specific to the legal profession and the criminal justice system. Cases usually involve the use of formal language and technical concepts.	10

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| 0 | 3 | Using material from Item C and elsewhere, assess the strengths and limitations of using covert observation as a means of investigating court proceedings. <i>(15 marks)</i> |
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Theory and Methods

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| 0 | 4 | Assess the contribution of functionalist and New Right theories and research to our understanding of society today. <i>(33 marks)</i> |
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Turn over for the next section

Turn over ►

Section B: Stratification and Differentiation with Theory and Methods

You are advised to spend approximately 30 minutes on question

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You are advised to spend approximately 30 minutes on question

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You are advised to spend approximately 20 minutes on question

0	7
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You are advised to spend approximately 40 minutes on question

0	8
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Total for this section: 90 marks

Stratification and Differentiation

Read **Item D** below and answer the question that follows.

Item D	
<p>The population of the United Kingdom is ageing. Between 1984 and 2009 the percentage of the population aged 65 and over increased from 15 per cent to 16 per cent, an increase of 1.7 million people. The greatest increase has been in the number of those aged 85 and over, the “oldest old”. Over the same period, the percentage of the population aged under 16 decreased from 21 per cent to 19 per cent.</p>	5
<p>Age is a key factor in determining the way we see ourselves and also how others see us. Additionally, age is an important factor in determining an individual’s life chances. Different age groups have different access to power and status.</p>	10

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Using material from **Item D** and elsewhere, assess sociological explanations of social differences and inequalities between age groups. *(21 marks)*

Read **Item E** below and answer the question that follows.

Item E	
<p>Marxist theories of stratification are derived from the concept of conflict between classes. Conflict in capitalist society arises from the exploitation of the working class by the capitalist class.</p>	
<p>This relationship is perpetuated by the ability of the capitalists to maintain their own position. As the owners of the means of production, they hold the power to make decisions that affect employment. They are able to keep the working class poor by controlling their wages.</p>	5
<p>Other sociologists disagree with the Marxist view and see inequality as necessary and inevitable in society.</p>	

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Using material from **Item E** and elsewhere, assess the usefulness of Marxist theories of stratification in understanding social class in society today. *(21 marks)*

Methods in Context

This question requires you to **apply** your knowledge and understanding of sociological research methods to the study of this **particular** issue in **stratification and differentiation**.

Read **Item F** below and answer the question that follows.

Item F	
Investigating differing life chances of minority ethnic groups	
The United Kingdom today is increasingly multi-ethnic. For example, in 2005, National Statistics showed that 10.9% of the population of England were from non-white ethnic groups.	
Individuals' life chances are linked to their ethnicity. For example, in the United Kingdom, members of black ethnic groups are more likely to experience unemployment, low pay and poor housing than are members of the white majority.	5
It is claimed that such disadvantages are the product of racial discrimination. However, life chances for those of minority ethnic backgrounds may depend not only on their ethnicity but also on their social class and gender.	10
Problems may arise both when defining ethnic groups and when allocating individuals to particular groups. This is especially true for individuals of mixed heritage.	

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| 0 | 7 | Using material from Item F and elsewhere, assess the strengths and limitations of using official statistics as a means of investigating differing life chances of minority ethnic groups. <i>(15 marks)</i> |
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Theory and Methods

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| 0 | 8 | Assess the contribution of functionalist and New Right theories and research to our understanding of society today. <i>(33 marks)</i> |
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END OF QUESTIONS

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