

version 1.1



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination

Sociology

SCLY3

Unit 3

Specimen paper for examinations in June 2010 onwards

This question paper uses the [new numbering system](#) and [new AQA answer book](#)

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 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 that 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.

SCLY3

Choose **one** Section. Do **not** answer questions from more than one Section.

Section A Beliefs in Society

If you choose this Section, answer Questions , and
and either Question or Question

Total for this section: 60 marks

Read **Item A** below and answer Questions , and that follow.

Item A

For some people religion is an important part of their lives. It can provide contact with others as well as participation in the local community. However, in 1999, almost half of all adults aged 18 and over in Great Britain who said they belonged to a religion or were brought up in a religion claimed that they never or practically never attended a religious service. Only 13% of women and 10% of men attended a religious service at least once a week. 5

Religion clearly plays a more important role in the lives of older people than in those of younger people. In 1999, one in six people aged 65 and over who said they belonged to a religious organisation or were brought up in a religion, attended one or more services a week. This compared with one in 20 of those aged 18–24. 27% of 18–24 year olds said that they had no religion, whereas only 2% of those aged 65 and over claimed this was the case. 10

Source: adapted from Social Trends 31, Office for National Statistics, January 2000
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- Identify and briefly explain **two** reasons why women seem to have a higher participation rate in religion than that of men. (6 marks)
- Identify and briefly explain **one** reason why people from some ethnic minorities seem to have a higher participation rate in religion than other social groups. (3 marks)
- Using material from **Item A** and elsewhere, assess the reasons why young people seem to participate in religious activity far less than do older generations. (18 marks)

EITHER

- Assess the view that cults, sects and New Age movements are fringe organisations that are inevitably short-lived and of little influence in contemporary society. (33 marks)

OR

- 'The growth and influence of religious fundamentalism across the world challenges the claim that contemporary society has become more secular.'

To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view of contemporary religious belief and practice? (33 marks)

Section B Global Development

If you choose this section, answer Questions 06 and 07
 and either Question 08 or Question 09

Total for this section: 60 marks

Read **Item B** below and answer Questions 06 and 07 that follow.

Item B

Some sociologists argue that in today's economic market place it is important for everyone to have good levels of skill and education. However, there are nearly one billion adults in the world today who cannot read or write, and most of these are in Third World countries. Such a low level of education will inevitably mean that people will find it harder to get employment or that they will have to take poorly paid jobs and will be of little use to their country as it develops. 5

Many children in Third World countries do not even attend primary school and many of those who start school drop out after only two or three years, before they have acquired all the skills they need to read and write. Particularly disadvantaged in this way are girls. It is often the case that when resources are scarce poor families will try to get education for boys but not for girls. This is merely one of many disadvantages that females suffer in some developing countries. 10

06 Identify and briefly explain **three** reasons why promoting mass literacy is not necessarily the best strategy for governments to adopt when trying to develop a country's economy. (9 marks)

07 Using material from **Item B** and elsewhere, assess the view that women in developing societies often suffer disadvantage. (18 marks)

EITHER

08 'What at first may seem like development too often results in dependency.'
 To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view of global development and the relationship between First and Third World countries? (33 marks)

OR

09 'There are at least 500 million people starving in the world, but there is also plenty of food in the world. The problem is not the amount of food but getting it to the right location. This can often be difficult and dangerous, for instance in the case of famines caused by wars and internal conflicts.'

To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view? (33 marks)

Turn over for Section C

Turn over ►

Section C Mass Media

If you choose this section, answer Questions

1	0
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 and

1	1
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and either Question

1	2
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 or Question

1	3
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Total for this section: 60 marks

Read **Item C** below and answer Questions

1	0
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 and

1	1
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 that follow.

Item C

There has long been a concern among the public, politicians and some researchers about the possible effects of exposure to violent messages or images in the mass media. In response to this concern, one approach by researchers has been to conduct laboratory-style experiments to try to discover if there are any effects. This is usually done by taking two groups with identical characteristics (for example, the same age, sex, etc) and then exposing one group to a violent sequence of film, while the other group is shown a 'neutral' sequence. The responses of the two groups are then observed to see if one group shows more aggressive behaviour than the other immediately after viewing the film. Many studies using this approach, such as Eysenck and Nias (1978), have found that exposure to media depictions of violence has a direct and powerful effect on the audience.

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10

1	0
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 Identify and briefly explain **three** problems of using 'laboratory-style experiments' to study the effects of the mass media on their audiences (**Item C**, line 4). (9 marks)

1	1
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 Using material from **Item C** and elsewhere, assess the view that exposure to media violence does not produce violent behaviour in the audience. (18 marks)

EITHER

1	2
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 'Both the selection and presentation of news are ideologically controlled.'
To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view? (33 marks)

OR

1	3
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 'Media representations both of gender and of sexuality tend to portray well-worn stereotypes.'
To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view? (33 marks)

Section D Power and Politics

if you choose this section, answer Questions **1 4** and **1 5**

and either Question **1 6** or Question **1 7**

Total for this section: 60 marks

Read **Item D** below and answer Questions **1 4** and **1 5** that follow.

Item D

Until fairly recently it was noticeable that very few women took an active part in politics. Some sociologists have argued that politics was not seen as an appropriate activity for women. Being involved in politics was something that most women did not do. It was accepted that women were not interested in the jobs and activities in the political world, or that they were less capable than men at doing the tasks.

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In the past, this view of the relationship between women and political participation was rarely challenged. However, there is an increasing amount of evidence to indicate that women are becoming more active and involved in politics in Britain today.

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- 1 4** Identify and briefly explain some of the sociological evidence, **apart from** that referred to in **Item D**, that might be used to support the view that in the past 'politics was not seen as an appropriate activity for women' (**Item D**, lines 2 – 3). *(9 marks)*
- 1 5** Using material from **Item D** and elsewhere, assess the view that women are becoming more active and involved in politics in Britain today. *(18 marks)*

EITHER

- 1 6** 'Some postmodernists argue that conventional political parties are in decline and that new social movements will become the dominant form of politics in western democratic societies.'
- To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view? *(33 marks)*

OR

- 1 7** 'Britain, like many modern western societies, is not open and democratic. It operates on dimensions of power that are hidden, closed and inaccessible to most of the population.'
- To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view of the nature and distribution of power in contemporary society? *(33 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS