

327/01

SOCIOLOGY – SOC 1

UNIT 1 - ACQUIRING CULTURE

A.M. WEDNESDAY, 24 May 2006

(1 hour)

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer all questions from **ONE** option only.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The question carries 60 marks.

The number of marks is given in square brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

The time you spend on a question should be in proportion to the marks available.

You are reminded that marking will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

Option 1: Families and Culture

Divorce among the over 50s.

The average age at **divorce** is increasing. In the ten years to 2004, it rose from 39 to 42 for men and from 36 to 39 for women. A key factor contributing to this is the rising divorce rate among people aged 50 and over.

In the years 1999–2004, it rose by 8.7%. One in seven people aged between 50 and 64 is now divorced. This is a higher proportion than among the 35–49 age group, which is one in eight. The highest proportion of over 50s divorcees is to be found in Scotland, West Midlands and the South East. The lowest proportion is in Wales, East Anglia and Yorkshire.

The figures came from a market research company, the *Future Foundation*. They claim that there are two factors influencing the trend.

First is the empty nest syndrome, this refers to the situation where, as the children grow up and leave home, there is no need for parents to ‘stay together for the sake of the kids’.

The second is the financial independence of women, which has contributed to changing their roles within the family significantly. Older women no longer need to rely on their husbands for economic security. One impact of this change in marriage patterns is that there will be an increasing number of older people living in single person households.

Source: adapted from *Sociology Update 2005*

1. Answer **all** of the following questions.

- (a) Explain what is meant by the term **divorce**. [5]
- (b) Using the extract above, identify recent trends in divorce among the over 50s in the UK. [5]
- (c) Using relevant examples, outline and explain why divorce has become socially acceptable. [20]
- (d) Discuss reasons for changes in the role of women in the family in contemporary society. [30]

Option 2: Youth Culture

Court bans teenager from wearing hoodie.

A teenager has been banned from wearing a hooded top or cap in public for five years after terrorising residents in a Manchester suburb.

Dale Carroll, 16, could face prison if he steps out in public in the teenage uniform of hoodie or baseball cap. The Asbo (Anti-social behaviour order) also bans him from meeting with more than two people in public apart from family members, and entering the village where he lived with his mother. He is also banned from possessing fireworks, axes or chainsaws.

The Court heard how he was a member of a gang of youths who ran wild in his neighbourhood for nearly three years. The teenager attempted to hack down a CCTV lamppost with a chainsaw, threw fireworks at cyclists, pulled someone from a bike and threatened the person with an axe.

Carroll faces a severe **sanction** for his behaviour. Breaching the conditions of an Asbo is a criminal offence for which he could be jailed for up to five years.

Richard Garside, of the Crime and Society Foundation, said it was “idiotic” to use an Asbo to determine whether a teenager could wear a hoodie or cap. “Legal powers are increasingly being used to manage youth behaviour.”

Adapted from an article by Patrick Barkham, May 27, 2005, *The Guardian*

2. Answer **all** of the following questions.

- (a) Explain what is meant by the term **sanction**. [5]
- (b) Using the extract above, identify ways in which adults attempt to control the behaviour of young people. [5]
- (c) Using relevant examples, outline and explain why fashion and clothing styles can be important to youth cultures. [20]
- (d) Discuss reasons why youth cultures are often associated with deviant behaviour. [30]

Option 3: Community and Culture

Multiple choices.

Hazel Blears, the Home Office minister, has caused controversy by asking **ethnic minorities** whether they would prefer a hyphenated label - such as Indian-British or British-Asian - as a means of achieving a more comfortable identity.

In the 1980's, some right wing politicians suggested that people could only have one ethnicity. Multiple identities are now regarded as normal. Who can forget the father of Amir Khan, the boxing silver-medalist in the Athens Olympics, wearing his Union Jack waistcoat over a Pakistan T-shirt at the ringside?

Zafar Iqbal, a family friend, said "It's about time Asians showed that we can do something. It makes me feel proud to be British."

Yet such ideas remain a source of anger for some newspaper commentators. The Daily Mail called Ms Blears's comments embarrassing, and said they were "cringe-making".

Nor were there many more cheers among ethnic minority communities. Ghayasuddin Siddiqui, a spokesperson of the Muslim community saw the idea as a step backwards, "Nobody cares for labels. We have to create an inclusive society. Some young people say to me: 'We have British passports but are treated as Pakis'."

Shahid Malik, a Labour MP, said Ms Blears was right in recognising the issue, but had hit on the wrong solution.

Amir Khan with his father



Source: Adapted from an editorial article in *The Guardian* August 10, 2005

3. Answer **all** of the following questions.

- (a) Explain what is meant by the term **ethnic minorities**. [5]
- (b) Using the extract above, identify the various ways in which people express their ethnic identity. [5]
- (c) Using relevant examples, outline and explain why some people may feel that they have more than one ethnicity. [20]
- (d) Discuss the reasons why people feel they need to belong to a community. [30]