

General Certificate of Education
June 2005
Advanced Level Examination



SOCIOLOGY
Unit 6

SCY6

Wednesday 29 June 2005 9.00 am to 10.30 am

In addition to this paper you will require:
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 SCY6.
- This paper is divided into **two** Sections. Choose **one** Section and answer **all** parts of the question from that Section.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want marked.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- Mark allocations are shown in brackets.
- You will be assessed on your ability to use an appropriate form and style of writing, to organise relevant information clearly and coherently, and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.
- The degree of legibility of your handwriting and the level of accuracy of your spelling, punctuation and grammar will also be taken into account.

Choose **one** Section and answer **all** parts of the question from that Section.

SECTION A – CRIME AND DEVIANCE

Total for this Section: 60 marks

- 1 Read the Item below and answer parts (a) to (c) which follow.

Item A

The ‘commonsense’ approach often taken by politicians, police, the media and the public sees crime and deviance as harmful and dysfunctional. We might expect functionalist sociologists to take this view, too, given their emphasis on the importance of value consensus. However, for writers such as Durkheim, a certain level of deviance is in fact both inevitable and beneficial to society. 5

Other functionalists have put forward explanations of differences in the patterns of deviance between different social groups and even whole societies. For example, Merton’s ‘strain’ theory uses the concept of anomie to explain differences in the rates and types of crime and deviance within and between societies. Functionalism has also made an important contribution to our understanding of collective as well as individual deviance. 10
Some sociologists therefore argue that functionalist ideas help us to explain the nature, extent and functions of crime and deviance.

- (a) Identify and briefly explain **two** disadvantages of using covert participant observation in studying crime and deviance. (8 marks)

This part of the question includes assessment of your understanding of the connections between Crime and Deviance and sociological methods.

- (b) Using material from **Item A** and elsewhere, examine some of the ways in which functionalists have tried to explain different types and patterns of crime and deviance. (12 marks)

This part of the question includes assessment of your understanding of the connections between Crime and Deviance and sociological theory.

- (c) “Deviance is the result of the social background of the deviant, rather than of the actions of social control agencies.” Assess this view.

In your answer, make reference to material from **two or more** of the following areas: families and households; health; mass media; education; wealth, poverty and welfare; work and leisure; power and politics; religion; world sociology. (40 marks)

This part of the question includes assessment of your understanding of the connections between Crime and Deviance and other substantive topic(s) you have studied.

SECTION B – STRATIFICATION AND DIFFERENTIATION

Total for this Section: 60 marks

- 2 Read the Item below and answer parts (a) to (c) which follow.

Item B

The concept of ‘life chances’ is an important one in the study of stratification. Max Weber defined a social group’s life chances as its chances of enjoying those things that society defines as desirable (such as good housing), and of avoiding those things society defines as undesirable (such as homelessness).

Different ethnic groups typically enjoy different life chances. For example, in housing, there is evidence that minority ethnic groups typically occupy lower quality accommodation. Surveys have found that minority ethnic households in Britain are more likely to live in homes needing repair or modernisation or that are unfit for habitation. Similarly, in the 1990s, 15 per cent of non-white households were overcrowded, as compared to 2 per cent of white households, while non-whites were three times more likely to have been homeless than whites. 5 10

- (a) Identify and briefly explain **two** criticisms made of the Marxist view of stratification. (8 marks)

This part of the question includes assessment of your understanding of the connections between Stratification and Differentiation and sociological theory.

- (b) Using material from **Item B** and elsewhere, examine the influence of ethnicity upon individuals’ life chances in **two or more** of the following areas: families and households; health; mass media; education; wealth, poverty and welfare; work and leisure; power and politics; religion; world sociology. (12 marks)

This part of the question includes assessment of your understanding of the connections between Stratification and Differentiation and other substantive topic(s) you have studied.

- (c) Assess sociological attempts to measure social mobility and to explain its importance for the class structure. (40 marks)

This part of the question includes assessment of your understanding of the connections between Stratification and Differentiation and sociological methods.

END OF QUESTIONS

THERE ARE NO QUESTIONS PRINTED ON THIS PAGE