



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
June 2011

Sociology

SCLY3

Unit 3

Wednesday 15 June 2011 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

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 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.

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

Section A: Beliefs In Society

If you choose this section, answer questions **0 1** and **0 2**
and either question **0 3** or question **0 4**.

Total for this section: 60 marks

Read **Item A** below and answer questions **0 1** and **0 2** that follow.

Item A

Sociologists disagree about the roles played by religion in society. Some argue that religion can help individuals to explain and make sense of the world around them. It can provide meaning and purpose to life, help to integrate people in society, and also enable them to cope with times of stress or disaster.

Some postmodernists, such as Bauman (1992), argue that many traditional religious organisations are now less important. Individuals are now free to shop around among a range of cults, sects and other religious and spiritual movements to find something that suits their lifestyle. 5

However, sociologists from Marxist, functionalist and feminist perspectives argue that religion also has wider functions for society. For example, functionalists argue that religion plays a crucial part in the maintenance of the collective conscience. Other sociologists put forward the idea that religion acts as a conservative force in society, helping to maintain order and prevent social change. 10

0 1 Identify and briefly explain **three** characteristics of religious fundamentalism. (9 marks)

0 2 Using material from **Item A** and elsewhere, assess the view that religion is a force for social change. (18 marks)

EITHER

0 3 Assess the view that secularisation has been a feature only of modern European societies. (33 marks)

OR

0 4 Assess the view that new religious movements are mainly for the middle classes and the young. (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

According to a United Nations (UN) report, millions of children could be facing lives of poverty and diminished opportunities if governments across the world fail to tackle deep and persistent inequalities in education. Currently, around 75 million children of primary school age are not in school. Even by 2015, at least 29 million will still be out of school.

5

The report said there is a 'vast gulf' in educational opportunity separating rich and poor countries. Children in the poorest 20 per cent of countries are three times less likely to be in primary school than children in the wealthiest 20 per cent. Within countries, too, there are deep-seated inequalities based on language, race, ethnicity and rural–urban differences.

10

The UN believes that the removal of school fees for basic education, increased public investment, and incentives for girls and marginalised groups would reduce inequality in education around the world.

Source: adapted from *Educational 'gulf' for children of the world* by K HOPKINS, *The Guardian*
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0 5 Identify and briefly explain **three** ways in which education may help the processes of development. (9 marks)

0 6 Using material from **Item B** and elsewhere, assess the view that western models of education are not appropriate for most developing countries. (18 marks)

EITHER

0 7 Critically examine the role of non-governmental organisations and international agencies in the developing world today. (33 marks)

OR

0 8 Evaluate the usefulness of neo-liberal theories for our understanding of development, underdevelopment and global inequality. (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

Some sociologists argue that the selection and presentation of news present an illusion to the audience. They argue that the news appears to be an objective and neutral selection of items and that events are reported simply because they are the most important things that have happened that day. However, they go on to say that in the world of news all is not what it seems. 5

This view of news broadcasting argues that the media companies reinforce the apparent authority and objectivity of the news by having newsreaders who present the items in a friendly manner. Such presentation encourages the audience to trust the broadcasters.

The news thus comes across to the audience as authoritative and as objective truth. However, this presentation of the news is an illusion. It is argued that the news is not an objective set of facts and events, but the result of a lengthy and complex process of selection and presentation. Such a process means that the news is inevitably partial and biased. 10

0 9 Identify and briefly explain **three** ways in which governments seek to influence or control the output of the mass media. (9 marks)

1 0 Using material from **Item C** and elsewhere, assess the view that the selection and presentation of the news 'is inevitably partial and biased' (**Item C**, lines 13–14). (18 marks)

EITHER

1 1 'What is shown by the mass media will not make people violent, but it may lead people to believe that we live in a violent society.'

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

OR

1 2 'Media representations of minority ethnic groups are problematic and often negative.'

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 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

Some sociologists argue that politics has changed fundamentally over the past 30 years or so. They claim that globalisation has changed the focus of political debates and that many issues today are global rather than national. The growth of supra-state bodies, such as the European Union, is one example of the nature of change in the political landscape.

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The election of President Obama in the United States could be seen as another example of a country seeing the need for significant political change, particularly with a view to global issues.

Similarly, in the United Kingdom, politicians needed to update and come to terms with a changing and modernising world. For example, the introduction of the Third Way by the Labour Government of 1997 signalled a significant ideological shift for the party and an end to the old-style class-based politics. Furthermore, many have since questioned whether traditional political institutions, such as parliament and the political parties, are right for conducting politics in the modern global age.

10

1 3

Identify and briefly explain **three** reasons why membership of the main political parties has been falling over the past 30 years or so. (9 marks)

1 4

Using material from **Item D** and elsewhere, assess how globalisation has changed the nature of power and politics in the world today. (18 marks)

EITHER

1 5

Assess the view that pressure groups and interest groups are declining in importance and influence in the political system today. (33 marks)

OR

1 6

'The role of the state is to do as little as possible and to stay out of most aspects of the lives of its citizens.'

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

END OF QUESTIONS

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