



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Level Examination  
January 2012

## Sociology

## SCLY3

### Unit 3

Monday 23 January 2012 9.00 am to 10.30 am

**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 nature and extent of secularisation in the world today. Some argue that secularisation is linked to the process of becoming a modern society. The changes involved in this development include taking on more scientific and rational ways of interpreting the world. For many, these new ways are seen as incompatible with holding religious beliefs. Weber (1905) called this process the 'disenchantment of the world'. More recently, Bruce (2002) argued that the decline of religious influence could be linked to the growth of technology. 5

Not all sociologists agree with these views. For example, Norris and Inglehart (2004) link religiosity to survival and to the need for a feeling of security. 10

Other sociologists argue that religion is not declining but changing. For example, some postmodernists hold the view that people no longer need to belong to or have a lifelong commitment to a religious organisation. Instead, they pick and mix, or adapt various aspects of different religions to suit their own personal lifestyles. 15

**0 1** Identify and briefly explain **three** reasons why members of minority ethnic groups may seem to be more religious than members of the majority population. (9 marks)

**0 2** Using material from **Item A** and elsewhere, assess the view that most people today choose not to be lifelong members of religious organisations. (18 marks)

**EITHER**

**0 3** 'The growth of New Age and similar movements is evidence of a spiritual revolution in society today.'

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

**OR**

**0 4** Assess the usefulness of functionalist theories in understanding religion today. (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

Conflicts of interest are normal in society. Some societies have the means to resolve these conflicts peacefully. For example, in modern western democracies, conflicts are often resolved by negotiation, debate or through the ballot box at elections. Such conflicts can be seen as positive and as part of the process of social change. 5

However, some conflicts cannot be resolved in this way. In these cases, they can become more serious and lead to wars. It is estimated that more than thirty wars are being fought at any one time. These wars are not like the Second World War, where massed state armies fought over territory on clearly defined lines, but are mostly what Kaldor (2007) calls 'New Wars'. These, she argues, are linked to destabilisation and dislocation caused by globalisation. This leads to power struggles based on nationalism, tribalism or religious fundamentalism. Also, the role of transnational corporations in promoting some conflicts cannot be ignored. 10

Whatever the cause, the processes of war severely impact on countries trying to develop. The social, physical and political turmoil caused can have most damaging effects. 15

**0 5** Identify and briefly explain **three** reasons why birth rates tend to fall as societies develop. (9 marks)

**0 6** Using material from **Item B** and elsewhere, assess the impact of war and conflict on development. (18 marks)

**EITHER**

**0 7** 'Urbanisation is a normal part of development and it brings many benefits to those in developing countries.'

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

**OR**

**0 8** Assess the relationship between gender and development. (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

Over the past few decades there has been considerable interest in the relationship between the mass media and gender. For example, feminists have criticised television production companies for showing women in stereotypical roles. They argue that such representations have focused on women's looks and sexual attractiveness. Similarly, Ferguson (1983) argued that women's magazines presented a 'cult of femininity', where getting and keeping a partner was a major focus. Other sociologists have identified the mass media as important agents in the social construction of gender differences. 5

More recently, Cumberbatch (2010) found that, despite women featuring strongly in television programmes such as soap operas, men now fill 65 per cent of all broadcast roles. There are even differences in news and current affairs on-street interviews, where women are asked for their opinion only a third as frequently as men. 10

However, it is not simply the issue of representation that raises concerns. Some argue that women generally have less power and hold fewer key decision-making jobs in the media industries than men. 15

**0 9** Identify and briefly explain **three** ways in which the mass media may contribute to 'cultural imperialism'. (9 marks)

**1 0** Using material from **Item C** and elsewhere, assess the role of the mass media in the representation of gender. (18 marks)

#### EITHER

**1 1** 'The new media have taken control of media content away from the owners and editors and placed it in the hands of the users.'

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

#### OR

**1 2** Assess the view that the owners of mass media corporations control media output and serve mainly ruling-class interests. (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

Voting behaviour has been a major area of interest in political sociology for many decades. The 2010 General Election provided much new evidence on the range of social and cultural factors that influence people when choosing which party to support.

One factor that emerged clearly from the election statistics was the large number of people who chose not to vote at all. Evidence from recent local council and European Parliament elections shows a similar trend. Some sociologists interpret these figures as indicating a deliberate act of abstention that shows disapproval of all political parties. 5

However, others argue that the rise in the number not voting shows a more worrying tendency for a democratic country. Recent scandals over expenses have damaged the image of politicians. Furthermore, opinion polls confirm that the public have little respect for Members of Parliament. The conclusion from this range of evidence could be that many people today have very little interest in politics and that elections no longer matter to them. 10  
15

**1 3** Identify and briefly explain **three** reasons why women tend to be under-represented in elected political offices. (9 marks)

**1 4** Using material from **Item D** and elsewhere, assess the view that 'many people today have very little interest in politics' (**Item D**, lines 14–15). (18 marks)

**EITHER**

**1 5** 'The role of political parties has changed over the past 30 years or so and in many ways they have declined in importance.'

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

**OR**

**1 6** 'All societies have elites. Some elites are simply more coherent and organised, and gain more power than others.'

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

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**There are no questions printed on this page**

**There are no questions printed on this page**

**There are no questions printed on this page**