



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Level Examination  
January 2013

## Sociology

## SCLY3

### Unit 3

Thursday 17 January 2013 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.

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

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**Section A: Beliefs in Society**

If you choose this section, answer questions 

0	1
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 and 

0	2
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and either question 

0	3
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 or question 

0	4
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**Total for this section: 60 marks**

Read **Item A** below and answer questions 

0	1
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 and 

0	2
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 that follow.

**Item A**

Berger (1990) argues that religion once provided a 'shared universe of meaning' and was used by people to make sense of the world, and to give their lives focus and order. He refers to religion as a 'sacred canopy', stretching over society and helping people to cope with the uncertainties of life.

Other sociologists disagree about the role that religion fulfils in society today. Marxists, for example, argue that religion acts to dull the pain of oppression experienced by the working class under capitalism and to conceal domination by the bourgeoisie. Some feminists argue that religion oppresses or disadvantages women.

0	1
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 Identify and briefly explain **three** ways in which women may be disadvantaged by religion today. *(9 marks)*

0	2
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 Using material from **Item A** and elsewhere, assess the view that religion no longer acts as a 'shared universe of meaning' for people today. *(18 marks)*

**EITHER**

0	3
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 Assess the view that religion inhibits social change. *(33 marks)*

**OR**

0	4
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 Evaluate the role of New Age movements in society 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

In 1925, there were only two billion people in the world. It is estimated that by the year 2050 the global population will be over nine billion.

Malthus (1798) argued that global population growth would eventually be checked by disease or famine. Some sociologists feel that a rise in population, if it continues unchecked, will be the cause of huge social and political problems in the future. Many now believe that it is inevitable that people will fight over increasingly scarce resources of food and water.

However, not all sociologists are so pessimistic. Cohen and Kennedy (2000) argue that predictions that population growth will run out of control are based on flawed statistical analyses and a lack of understanding of population change.

**0 5** Identify and briefly explain **three** ways in which women may be disadvantaged in the process of development today. *(9 marks)*

**0 6** Using material from **Item B** and elsewhere, assess the view that global population growth is becoming 'out of control'. *(18 marks)*

### EITHER

**0 7** 'Development often leads to increased inequality, and increased inequality inevitably leads to wars and conflicts.'  
To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view of development in the world today? *(33 marks)*

### OR

**0 8** Assess the view that poor countries will always stay poor. *(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

Many sociologists argue that material presented by the media is partial and biased. However, it is not only issues of bias that concern sociologists studying the media. Some also criticise the media for failing to tackle difficult issues and for continuing to put forward representations of certain groups that reinforce and perpetuate stereotypes. Such representations include those of women, certain minority ethnic groups, age groups and those with disabilities.

For example, there is a range of research, including that by Cottle (2000) and Hargrave (2002), which shows that black and Asian minority ethnic groups are often linked to violence or criminality in representations by the mass media.

**0 9** Identify and briefly explain **three** ways in which women working in mass media organisations today are disadvantaged. *(9 marks)*

**1 0** Using material from **Item C** and elsewhere, assess the view that the mass media represent many groups in stereotypical ways. *(18 marks)*

#### EITHER

**1 1** 'The mass media do not control their consumers; the consumers control the media.'  
To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view of the mass media today? *(33 marks)*

#### OR

**1 2** Assess the view that the mass media are helping to create a single global popular culture. *(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

Politics in the United Kingdom used to be seen as a battle between two major class-based parties, with the Conservatives representing the upper and middle classes and Labour as the party of the working class. However, today things are different. For example, the nature of class and the relationship between class and political party have both changed. Similarly, new issues have emerged around which new political parties have formed.

It is also the case that, according to voting statistics, a large proportion of the electorate takes little part in politics, and many fail to vote in elections.

Such changes may indicate that there is no longer a major role for political parties to play in modern-day politics and that political parties will become increasingly marginalised in the political process.

**1 3** Identify and briefly explain **three** ways in which women are disadvantaged in politics today. (9 marks)

**1 4** Using material from **Item D** and elsewhere, assess the view that there are more effective ways to bring about social change than by voting in elections. (18 marks)

**EITHER**

**1 5** Assess the view that states are becoming less and less significant in global politics. (33 marks)

**OR**

**1 6** 'People today vote in their own self-interest, not to show class or party allegiance.'

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

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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