



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
June 2013

Sociology

SCLY3

Unit 3

Wednesday 5 June 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.

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
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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

Some sociologists argue that one response to globalisation has been the growth of religious fundamentalism. Much has been written about the decline of religious belief and the secularisation of modern societies, but fundamentalism seems to go against this trend.

Many associate fundamentalism with violence, and religious and political extremism. However, while fundamentalists may have views that differ greatly from the mainstream, this does not automatically make them violent or anti-society. Fundamentalists usually seek a return to what they would see as the 'true path'. They reject modern interpretations of faith as having lost their way because teachings have been watered down over the decades. Fundamentalists seek a return to a literal interpretation of their holy book and strict obedience to religious teachings.

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

0	2
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 Using material from **Item A** and elsewhere, assess the view that the growth of religious fundamentalism is a reaction to globalisation. (18 marks)

EITHER

0	3
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 Evaluate the contribution of Marxist theories to our understanding of the role and functions of religion in the world today. (33 marks)

OR

0	4
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 'Different social groups have different social and spiritual needs and use religion and religious organisations in very different ways.'

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

Countries with low per-capita incomes usually have populations that suffer from poor health and the effects of chronic diseases. In the long term, improvements in the health of populations are likely to come mainly from a rise in the standard of living and from higher income levels. However, sociologists argue about the most effective way to organise healthcare provision in the short term to bring about some relief from disease.

Some sociologists and non-governmental organisations argue that healthcare systems based on small, local facilities are likely to be the most effective. Others argue that western-style healthcare systems and practices are better and are likely, in the long run, to provide greater improvements in the health of the population. Such systems may make the best use of new technology and medicines.

0 5 Identify and briefly explain **three** advantages that non-governmental organisations may have over governmental organisations in providing help to developing countries. *(9 marks)*

0 6 Using material from **Item B** and elsewhere, assess the view that developing countries should adopt western-style healthcare systems and practices. *(18 marks)*

EITHER

0 7 Evaluate the contribution of Marxist theories to our understanding of the processes of development in the world today. *(33 marks)*

OR

0 8 'Aid is a tool used by rich countries to give them power and influence over poorer countries.'

To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view? *(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

The selection and presentation of the news are important features of most media outlets. For example, news broadcasts form the key element of many TV channel schedules. However, there is considerable concern about the processes surrounding what we call 'news'. Some sociologists argue that the news is an unbiased and factual account of events. In their view, the news is presented with authority and is a true record of what has taken place.

However, other sociologists disagree with this view. They argue that the reporting of news is inevitably biased and that news presentation distorts reality. They also argue that the selection process used by media organisations means that some issues are more likely to become 'news' than others.

0 9 Identify and briefly explain **three** arguments put forward by sociologists to support their claim that exposure to media violence does **not** make people violent. *(9 marks)*

1 0 Using material from **Item C** and elsewhere, assess sociological views of the selection and presentation of the news. *(18 marks)*

EITHER

1 1 Evaluate the contribution of Marxist theories to our understanding of the organisation and role of the mass media in the world today. *(33 marks)*

OR

1 2 Evaluate the impact of the growth and increasing diversity of the new media on society today. *(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 a healthy democracy requires the active participation of a large proportion of the population. For most people, participation is through the ballot box. People involve themselves by voting in local, national or European elections. However, in the recent past, the numbers voting have often been quite low, which raises concerns about how democratic society is today.

To counter these concerns, some sociologists argue that pressure groups provide another opportunity for participation and influence. Pressure groups involve people in attempts to bring about social or political change. These sociologists conclude that, the more pressure-group activity there is, the better it is for democracy. Therefore, the growth of pressure groups can only be good for society.

1 3 Identify and briefly explain **three** reasons why direct action may be an effective way of bringing about social change. *(9 marks)*

1 4 Using material from **Item D** and elsewhere, assess the view that pressure groups are an undemocratic and harmful feature of modern political systems. *(18 marks)*

EITHER

1 5 Evaluate the contribution of Marxist theories to our understanding of power and politics in the world today. *(33 marks)*

OR

1 6 'Politicians and political parties need to understand the role and influence of the mass media if they are to succeed in politics today.'

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

END OF QUESTIONS

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