



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
June 2014

Sociology

SCLY1

Unit 1 **Culture and Identity; Families and Households;
Wealth, Poverty and Welfare**

Thursday 15 May 2014 9.00 am to 10.00 am

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 8-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 1 hour

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is SCLY1.
- The paper is divided into **three** sections.
- Choose **one** section and answer **all** the questions in that section.
- Do **not** answer questions from more than one section.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work that 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 24 marks 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 and answer **all** the questions in that section.

Section A: Culture and Identity

Total for this section: 60 marks

Read **Items 1A** and **1B** below and answer questions

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 that follow.

Item 1A

Individual choices help to form a person's identity, but that identity is also shaped by society. Factors such as an individual's social class, age and sexuality may influence how others see them. Sometimes an aspect of a person's identity may be stigmatised by society.

Item 1B

Functionalists see the socialisation process as beneficial for all of society. Social institutions shape individuals and transmit the culture of society. From a functionalist perspective, the role of the socialisation process is to integrate individuals into society as a whole. It is important that members of a society see themselves not just as individuals, but also as part of a wider group.

Other sociologists are critical of this view of socialisation. For example, social action approaches place more emphasis on the way in which individuals create their own identity through interaction with others.

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 Explain what is meant by the 'culture' of society (**Item 1B**). **[2 marks]**
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 Suggest **two** ways in which an individual's social experience is affected by their sexuality, **apart from** being stigmatised by society (**Item 1A**). **[4 marks]**
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 Suggest **three** characteristics of the postmodernist view of culture and/or identity. **[6 marks]**

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Examine sociological explanations of the ways in which ethnicity may shape social identity.

[24 marks]

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Using material from **Item 1B** and elsewhere, assess the functionalist view of the role of the socialisation process.

[24 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Turn over ▶

Section B: Families and Households

Total for this section: 60 marksRead **Items 2A** and **2B** below and answer questions

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 that follow.**Item 2A**

Radical feminists emphasise the patriarchal nature of family life and the ways in which men exploit and oppress women within families. Others are critical of radical feminist views and point to the changes that have taken place in family life, such as the rise of the symmetrical family.

Item 2B

In common with many western societies, the United Kingdom has an ageing population. Rising life expectancy and a relatively low birth rate have meant that the average age of the population is rising. For some writers, the increase in the number of people over the age of 65 presents a problem for society in terms of providing for this group, most of whom are no longer in paid work.

However, the fact that life expectancy is rising could be regarded as a success for society. Similarly, an ageing population may provide positive opportunities rather than just problems.

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 Explain what is meant by a 'beanpole' family. **[2 marks]**
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 Identify **two** ways in which men may exploit and/or oppress women within families (**Item 2A**). **[4 marks]**
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 Identify **three** features of a symmetrical family (**Item 2A**). **[6 marks]**

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Examine the reasons for changing patterns of marriage and divorce over the last 50 years or so.

[24 marks]

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Using material from **Item 2B** and elsewhere, assess the view that an ageing population creates problems for society.

[24 marks]

Turn over for Section C

Turn over ▶

Section C: Wealth, Poverty and Welfare

Total for this section: 60 marksRead **Items 3A** and **3B** below and answer questions

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 that follow.**Item 3A**

The term 'welfare pluralism' means that there are a number of different groups and organisations involved in the provision of welfare. The state is involved in providing a wide range of benefits and services, paid for by taxation. In addition, welfare is provided both informally and by a variety of private sector and voluntary organisations.

Item 3B

Some sociologists argue that poverty is inevitable in society. People have different skills and abilities and these lead to differences in rewards. Over time, this means that some people accumulate large amounts of personal wealth while others are left in poverty.

Other sociologists argue that poverty is a result of the way in which society is structured. They believe that poverty can be reduced significantly, or even eliminated, by taking steps to alter the way in which society is organised.

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Explain what is meant by 'wealth' (**Item 3B**).**[2 marks]**

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Explain the difference between voluntary welfare provision and private sector welfare provision (**Item 3A**).**[4 marks]**

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Suggest **three** reasons why some minority ethnic groups are more likely to experience poverty.**[6 marks]**

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Examine the ways in which government policies may attempt to deal with the problem of poverty in society.

[24 marks]

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Using material from **Item 3B** and elsewhere, assess the view that poverty is inevitable in society.

[24 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page