



GCE AS/A level

327/01

**SOCIOLOGY – SOC1
UNIT 1 - ACQUIRING CULTURE**

A.M. MONDAY, 19 May 2008

1 hour

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer all questions from **ONE** option only.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The question carries 60 marks.

The number of marks is given in square brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

The time you spend on a question should be in proportion to the marks available.

You are reminded that marking will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

*Answer all the questions from **one** option only.*

Option 1: Families and Culture

Divorce

Divorce in England & Wales is based on the ‘irretrievable breakdown of a marriage’.

This can be a result of the following factors: desertion, two years’ or five years’ separation. These take a long time before divorce is possible. Unreasonable behaviour is chosen as the grounds for divorce for most couples who want a quick divorce.

To obtain a divorce for unreasonable behaviour, the law insists that the marriage has broken down and that one of the couple in the marriage has behaved in such an unreasonable manner that the other finds it intolerable to live with him or her.

This sounds difficult to prove, but the reality is that the courts do not set a very high standard for unreasonable behaviour. In practice it is not hard to find some examples that are enough to satisfy a court.

The courts are realistic. They know that if one person within a marriage feels strongly enough to ask for divorce, the marriage has ended so far as that person is concerned. It would be pointless to pretend otherwise. Most divorce petitions are requested by women.

Adapted from the Terry and Co solicitor’s website

1. *Answer **all** of the following questions.*

- (a) Explain what is meant by the term **divorce**. [5]
- (b) Using the extract above, summarise what the law says about divorce. [5]
- (c) Using relevant examples, outline and explain the changing roles of women in the family. [20]
- (d) Discuss the view that high divorce rates reflect a decline in the importance of the family. [30]

Option 2: Youth Culture

Young people and binge drinking

A recent report calls on the government to stop the alcohol industry marketing to underage teenagers as alcohol consumption among the young is rising and becoming the **norm**.

The results of a recent survey in the North West of England suggest that girls from the most socially deprived areas, who received the most weekly pocket money were the most likely to drink irresponsibly – defined as more than twice a week, five units at a time and in public spaces.

Some 40% of the 15- and 16-year old respondents who reported that they drank, also said that they bought their own alcohol. The study found that teenagers who illegally bought their own alcohol were six times as likely to drink in public, in parks and on the streets, three times as likely to be regular drinkers and twice as likely to be binge drinkers.

Nearly 90% drank at least once every six months. Some 40% of those binged regularly. 25% drank frequently and 50% drank in public. Those who did all three were most likely to buy the alcohol themselves or through an older sibling or friend. People who drank with their parents, and received less than £10 pocket money a week, exhibited the safest behaviour.

Adapted from an article in the Guardian newspaper

2. Answer **all** of the following questions.

- (a) Explain what is meant by the term **norm**. [5]
- (b) Using the extract above, summarise patterns of drinking among the young. [5]
- (c) Using relevant examples, outline and explain why youth cultures are often associated with deviant behaviour. [20]
- (d) Discuss the view that gender differences in modern youth culture are becoming less significant. [30]

Option 3: Community and Culture

Second homes

The growth in the popularity of owning a second home has meant that the value of houses in some coastal areas of the UK has risen a lot in recent years.

The very things which can attract second-home owners - the pretty scenery and peaceful atmosphere means that there are also strict planning laws to prevent people building new homes and there is a shortage of homes on the market. This is having an effect on the local **community**.

For example, Pembrokeshire, where 6% of all houses are second homes - rising to 50% in some coastal areas - average property prices are now close to seven times the average wage and many local people struggle to get onto the property ladder.

Matthew Owens, a former estate agent said, “we are slowly seeing the erosion of local communities in Pembrokeshire.”

Local young people are finding it very difficult to get onto the housing market. Homes, which are empty for a large part of the year, literally create a gap in local society. Communities which are lively and vibrant during the summer months go into virtual hibernation in the winter, with shops and pubs closed and services such as buses reduced.

Adapted from the BBC website

3. Answer **all** of the following questions.

- (a) Explain what is meant by the term **community**. [5]
- (b) Using the extract above, summarise the effects of second home ownership on some communities. [5]
- (c) Using relevant examples, outline and explain why many communities may be undergoing change in rural (countryside) areas. [20]
- (d) Discuss the view that communities must belong to a particular geographical area. [30]