

General Certificate of Education
June 2006
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



SOCIOLOGY
Unit 1

SCY1

Wednesday 24 May 2006 9.00 am to 10.15am

For this paper you must have:

- an 8-page answer book

Time allowed: 1 hour 15 minutes

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or 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 SCY1.
- This paper is divided into **three** Sections. Choose **one** Section and answer **all** parts of the question from that Section. Do **not** answer questions from more than one Section.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want marked.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- The marks for questions (or part questions) are shown in brackets.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers. Part questions (e) and (f) should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in these answers.

Choose **one** Section and answer **all** parts of the question from that Section.

SECTION A: FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS

Total for this section: 60 marks

1 Read **Items 1A and 1B** and answer parts (a) to (f) which follow.

Item 1A

Families and households have taken different forms at different times and places. According to Talcott Parsons, for example, the extended family was typical of pre-industrial society, whereas the rise of the nuclear family accompanied that of modern industrial society. Parsons argued that this is because the nuclear family meets the needs of modern industrial society.

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There is also variation in the roles and relationships within families in terms of the tasks each member is expected to perform, and their control over the household's resources. However, despite these variations, radical feminists argue that the family is inevitably patriarchal. For example, studies show that the more important a decision, the more likely it is that the husband rather than the wife takes it.

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Item 1B

According to Ulrich Beck and Elisabeth Beck-Gernsheim (1995), individuals today are increasingly required to make choices about how they live. They argue that this trend has important consequences for the stability of marriage. In the past, individuals had little choice: everyone was expected to marry and, once married, the gender division of labour fixed their roles. Though unequal, such marriages offered security and stability.

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Nowadays, however, both society and marriage are more equal, especially in terms of gender. This may create conflict, for example as husband and wife each seek to pursue their individual careers. One partner may have to sacrifice their opportunities for the sake of the other. In a society based on individualism, this may lead to resentment and divorce.

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- (a) Explain what is meant by the ‘patriarchal’ family (**Item 1A**, line 9). (2 marks)
- (b) Identify **two** criticisms made of the radical feminist view of the family (**Item 1A**, line 8). (4 marks)
- (c) Suggest **three** reasons why husbands may be more likely to take the more important decisions (**Item 1A**, lines 9 – 10). (6 marks)
- (d) Identify and briefly explain **two** reasons for ‘the rise of the nuclear family’ (**Item 1A**, line 3). (8 marks)
- (e) Examine the reasons for changes in the position of children in the family and society. (20 marks)
- (f) Using material from **Item 1B** and elsewhere, assess sociological explanations of the increase in the number of divorces since the 1960s. (20 marks)

Turn over for Section B

SECTION B: HEALTH

Total for this section: 60 marks

2 Read **Items 2A and 2B** and answer parts (a) to (f) which follow.

Item 2A

In western societies today, the bio-medical model of illness dominates the business of treating and curing the sick. There has been widespread public acceptance of the effectiveness of this approach to health care.

However, critics argue that modern medical treatment often results in iatrogenesis, and that many of medicine's claims to success are false. For example, many infectious diseases that were major killers in the past, such as tuberculosis, were not suddenly 'conquered' by medical advances, but steadily declined as housing and diet improved. Similarly, even if bio-medicine were effective in curing disease, this would still leave the working class at greater risk of falling ill in the first place – and, once ill, less likely to enjoy the same access to adequate health care as the middle class. 5 10

Item 2B

Life expectancy and death rates show that women generally live longer than men and that, in all age groups, death rates are higher for men than women. However, women consistently report higher rates of illness and lower rates of general well-being. This is especially true where they have young children. According to Nettleton (1995), in households with a child aged under one year, 39 per cent of women but only 20 per cent of men report 'always feeling tired'. 5

Women also have more consultations with doctors and more admissions to hospital. However, when conditions associated with reproduction are excluded, the difference in admissions disappears among men and women aged 15 – 44 while, for other age groups, admission rates are actually higher for males. 10

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- (a) Explain what is meant by ‘iatrogenesis’ (**Item 2A**, line 4). *(2 marks)*
- (b) Identify **two** features of ‘the bio-medical model of illness’ (**Item 2A**, line 1). *(4 marks)*
- (c) Suggest **three** factors, **apart from** those referred to in **Item 2A**, that may account for class differences in the risk of falling ill. *(6 marks)*
- (d) Identify and briefly explain **two** reasons why the working class is ‘less likely to enjoy the same access to adequate health care as the middle class’ (**Item 2A**, lines 9 – 10). *(8 marks)*
- (e) Examine the reasons why different social groups appear to have different rates of **mental** illness. *(20 marks)*
- (f) Using material from **Item 2B** and elsewhere, assess sociological explanations of the patterns of women’s **physical** illness and access to health care. *(20 marks)*

Turn over for Section C

SECTION C: MASS MEDIA

Total for this section: 60 marks

3 Read **Items 3A and 3B** and answer parts (a) to (f) which follow.

Item 3A

A stereotype is a ‘shorthand’ way of referring to complex social situations and relationships. Usually it is an easily grasped, negative characteristic that is presumed to belong to all members of a group. The media have often been accused of negative stereotyping in their portrayal of certain social groups, such as ethnic minorities, disabled people, and gays and lesbians. In the Marxist view, these stereotypes take their particular form because of the power of ideology to shape our perceptions of reality. Marxists see the media as an important ideological state apparatus. 5

Studies of how the media portray social groups often use content analysis. In many cases, this involves counting how many times the members of a group are represented in certain ways – for example, how often women are shown in positions of power, or young black men represented as criminals or as heroes. 10

Item 3B

The hypodermic syringe model of the media–audience relationship originates in the early 20th century as an attempt to understand the newly emerging world of mass communication, especially the cinema and radio. The model assumes that the media are powerful enough to exert a direct and immediate effect on the audience.

One version of this model rests on the idea that modern society has become a ‘mass society’. Traditional groupings such as social classes, churches and communities had previously integrated people into society. However, these groupings have broken down, and the population has become an ‘atomised’ or fragmented mass of individuals. As a result, they are now extremely vulnerable to the media’s messages – all the more so when control over the media is in the hands of powerful political or economic elites. 5
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- (a) Explain what is meant by ‘ideology’ (**Item 3A**, line 6). *(2 marks)*
- (b) Identify **two** criticisms made of the Marxist view of the mass media (**Item 3A**, line 5). *(4 marks)*
- (c) Suggest **three** reasons for the negative stereotyping of certain social groups by the mass media (**Item 3A**, lines 3 – 5). *(6 marks)*
- (d) Identify and briefly explain **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of using content analysis to study ‘how the media portray social groups’ (**Item 3A**, line 8). *(8 marks)*
- (e) Examine the ways in which the news is selected and presented to audiences. *(20 marks)*
- (f) Using material from **Item 3B** and elsewhere, assess the hypodermic syringe model of the relationship between the mass media and audiences. *(20 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page