



General Certificate of Education
January 2006
Advanced Level Examination

SOCIOLOGY
Unit 4

SCY4



Friday 20 January 2006 9.00 am to 10.30 am

For this paper you must have:

- a 12-page answer book

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 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 SCY4.
- This paper is divided into **three** Sections. Choose **one** 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. Questions carrying 12 marks or more should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in these answers.

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

SECTION A: POWER AND POLITICS

If you choose this Section, answer Question 1 **and either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

Total for this section: 60 marks

1 Read **Item A** below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

Item A

Political parties have become increasingly concerned over the past two decades about the growing number of electors who fail to vote. Governments have tried a variety of measures, including more use of postal voting, changes to poll opening times and the use of new-style polling booth locations to get more people to vote. Political parties have also tried a number of ways to encourage more people from all groups in society to take more interest in politics. Despite these efforts, however, the parties still seem to have great difficulty in attracting voters to the polls. In the 2001 general election, voter turnout dropped to under sixty per cent of those registered to vote. 5

Some sociologists claim that this decline in political interest is merely temporary, but others argue that more people now see direct action as the only way to bring about political change in society today. 10

- (a) Identify and briefly explain some of the reasons for low voter turnout at some recent general, European and local elections, **apart from** those referred to in **Item A**. (8 marks)
- (b) Briefly examine the view that direct action is replacing voting as ‘the only way to bring about political change’ in today’s society (**Item A**, lines 10 – 11). (12 marks)

EITHER

2 Evaluate pluralist views on the distribution and use of power in society today. (40 marks)

OR

3 “While in the past the main political parties had distinctive ideologies, this is no longer the case today.”

To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view? (40 marks)

SECTION B: RELIGION

If you choose this Section, answer Question 4 **and either** Question 5 **or** Question 6.

Total for this section: 60 marks

4 Read **Item B** below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

Item B

Society has changed significantly over the past century and it has often been noted that there has been a drift away from mainstream religious organisations. Many people now feel that their religious needs can no longer be met through the more conventional forms of religious organisation, such as the traditional churches and denominations. In such cases, it is not unusual for people to be attracted by different and new approaches to worship and belief offered by sects and cults. 5

To help clarify our understanding of these newer religious organisations, Wallis developed a classification of what he called New Religious Movements that divided them into world-affirming, world-accommodating and world-rejecting religions. In such organisations, participation and membership are often significantly different from mainstream religions. 10
Many people fear that New Religious Movements have too great a hold over their members, but evidence shows that in reality the turnover in membership is very high.

- (a) Identify and briefly explain some of the reasons why New Religious Movements have such a high turnover of members. (8 marks)
- (b) Using material from **Item B** and elsewhere, briefly examine why some people feel that traditional churches and denominations no longer meet their religious needs. (12 marks)

EITHER

5 Evaluate functionalist views on the role and functions of religion today. (40 marks)

OR

6 Evaluate sociological explanations of the relationship between gender and religious belief and practice. (40 marks)

Turn over for Section C

SECTION C: WORLD SOCIOLOGY

If you choose this Section, answer Question 7 **and either** Question 8 **or** Question 9.

Total for this section: 60 marks

7 Read **Item C** below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

Item C

For the people of Kuluunda, a tiny village in central Malawi, there is a cruel choice; they can either queue for four hours to collect water from an open well or scoop it from nearby marshes. Either will make them sick, as the village has no safe water.

Elina Adini, who has two small children, visits both water supplies each day, bringing home two pails of water from the open well for cooking and drinking before scooping four pails from the marshes for washing and cleaning. The lack of clean water locks the family into an economic vicious circle. Elina makes 100 kwacha (about £1) a day selling lettuces on the days when she can work. However, much of the time she is forced to stay at home to look after her sick children. She cannot afford a nearby private clinic and can go to a free state clinic only outside the rainy season when she can cross the river. 5
10

The village wants a safe borehole, but the £1790 that it will cost means they are unlikely to be able to afford clean water without outside help.

Source: adapted from 'Water in Africa: for the lack of £1790, the village is condemned to foul water, disease and poverty', © *The Independent*, 31 May 2003

- (a) Identify and briefly explain some of the reasons, **apart from** those referred to in **Item C**, why women might be economically and socially disadvantaged in many Third World countries. (8 marks)
- (b) Using material from **Item C** and elsewhere, briefly examine the different factors that determine people's health in developing countries. (12 marks)

EITHER

8 "Globalisation has brought improved cultural, political and economic inter-relationships between societies."

To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence agree with this view of world development? (40 marks)

OR

9 Evaluate the view that trade is more important than aid as a strategy for development. (40 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS