

General Certificate of Education
June 2006
Advanced Level Examination



SOCIOLOGY
Unit 4

SCY4

Friday 16 June 2006 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

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. Part questions carrying 12 or more marks 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** and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

Text from M HARALAMBOS and M HOLBORN, *Sociology: Themes and Perspectives, sixth edition*, Collins, 2004.
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- (a) Identify and briefly explain some sociological criticisms of the views put forward by elite theorists. (8 marks)
- (b) Using information from **Item A** and elsewhere, briefly examine the Marxist view that there is a ruling class in Britain today (**Item A**, lines 10 – 11). (12 marks)

EITHER

2 ‘Voting is no longer a matter of loyalty to a social class. It is now a rational choice made by a consumer in a political market place.’

To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view of voting behaviour in Britain today? (40 marks)

OR

3 ‘To be successful, political movements must make effective use of the mass media.’

To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view of the role of the mass media in the political process today? (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** and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

Item B

The functions of religion are interpreted very differently by sociologists from different perspectives. For instance, most structural theorists, such as Marxists, feminists, functionalists and those from the New Right, argue that in some way religion functions to exert social control over the members of society. However, the different perspectives do not agree on whether such social control is a positive or a negative feature of religion. 5

Similarly, sociologists disagree about the relationship between religion and social change. For instance, some Marxists, feminists and functionalists argue, in different ways, that religion acts as a force to prevent change, while Max Weber put forward the view that under certain circumstances religion could actively lead to change in society.

- (a) Identify and briefly explain some of the ways in which religion could be said to 'exert social control over the members of society' (**Item B**, line 4). (8 marks)
- (b) Using information from **Item B** and elsewhere, briefly examine the evidence and/or arguments in favour of the view that religion can act as a force for change in society. (12 marks)

EITHER

5 Assess the nature and extent of secularisation in society today. (40 marks)

OR

6 Assess the view that cults and sects inevitably turn into denominations and churches. (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** and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

Item C

Sociologists argue about whether development is good or bad for societies. The arguments are complex, and they are not helped by confusions and misunderstandings over the terms used in the debate. For instance, the notion of development means different things to different people. For many, it means progress and implies that society will be improving or getting better to live in. Progress may be measured by an increased standard of living or a rise in the gross domestic product. 5

However, this approach is criticised by some sociologists, who cast doubt upon the usefulness of economic measures of development. They challenge the idea that development automatically brings improvement. They point out the possible harmful or negative effects of development both for society and for individuals. 10

- (a) Identify and briefly explain some of the ways in which development might produce 'harmful or negative effects' for society and/or for individuals (**Item C**, lines 9 – 10). (8 marks)
- (b) Using information from **Item C** and elsewhere, briefly examine why some sociologists argue that economic measures do not give a satisfactory picture of development. (12 marks)

EITHER

8 Compare and contrast modernisation theory and dependency theory as explanations of development and under-development. (40 marks)

OR

9 'Populations in developing countries will grow rapidly over the next fifty years, leading to widespread famine and increased poverty.'

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

END OF QUESTIONS