

A-level SOCIOLOGY

Paper 2 Topics in Sociology

Time allowed: 2 hours

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7192/2.
- Answer **all** questions from **one** topic in **Section A** and **all** questions from **one** topic in **Section B**.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- Questions should be answered in continuous prose.

You will be marked on your ability to:

- use good English
- organise information clearly
- use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Section A

Choose **one** topic from this section and answer **all** the questions on that topic.

Topic A1 Culture and Identity

0 1

Outline and explain **two** ways people may be socialised into ethnic identities.

[10 marks]**0 2**

Read **Item A** below and answer the question that follows.

Item A

One aspect of globalisation is increased migration of people between countries. Globalisation also involves growth in trade and so there is a wider range of products for people to consume.

Globalisation may affect people's identities.

Applying material from **Item A**, analyse **two** ways in which globalisation may affect people's identities.

[10 marks]**0 3**

Read **Item B** below and answer the question that follows.

Item B

Subcultures are groups within a society whose lifestyle, attitudes and values are different to some extent from those in wider society. Subcultures can be based on gender, ethnicity, taste or other factors.

Youth subcultures, for example, are seen by functionalists as giving young people ways to cope with the transition to adulthood. However, they are seen by other sociologists as expressing resistance against the dominant culture.

Applying material from **Item B** and your knowledge, evaluate sociological explanations of subcultures.

[20 marks]

Topic A2 Families and Households

0 4

Outline and explain **two** ways in which increased life expectancy may have affected the experience of childhood.

[10 marks]**0 5**

Read **Item C** below and answer the question that follows.

Item C

People have more choice than in the past over who they can be in a personal relationship with. They also have more choices when a relationship ends.

This increased choice in personal life has affected family structures in the UK today.

Applying material from **Item C**, analyse **two** effects that increased choice in personal life has on family structures in the UK today.

[10 marks]**0 6**

Read **Item D** below and answer the question that follows.

Item D

Marxist sociologists argue that families continue to perform a key role in maintaining capitalism. Families support the economy and play an important part in transmitting ideology that helps to legitimise the capitalist system.

However, some sociologists argue that Marxists place too much importance on the role of families in supporting capitalism and that families are beneficial to individuals and society as a whole.

Applying material from **Item D** and your knowledge, evaluate Marxist explanations of the role of families in society today.

[20 marks]**Turn over ►**

Topic A3 Health

0 7

Outline and explain **two** reasons why some ethnic groups may be more likely than others to be diagnosed as mentally ill.

[10 marks]**0 8**

Read **Item E** below and answer the question that follows.

Item E

The social model of health suggests that society defines what is normal, which affects the way a person's health is viewed. The biomedical model of health focuses on whether an individual is physically able to carry out day to day activities.

Models of health and illness are used to explain disability.

Applying material from **Item E**, analyse **two** ways in which models of health and illness explain disability.

[10 marks]**0 9**

Read **Item F** below and answer the question that follows.

Item F

Functionalists argue that health professionals perform an important role in helping society remain stable. They also suggest that health professionals, such as doctors, possess the expert knowledge to diagnose and provide treatment in the interests of patients.

Other sociologists argue that functionalists fail to consider that health professionals may operate in the interests of powerful groups.

Applying material from **Item F** and your knowledge, evaluate the functionalist view of the role of health professionals.

[20 marks]

Topic A4 Work, Poverty and Welfare

1 0

Outline and explain **two** ways in which voluntary and informal welfare providers may have affected the extent of poverty.

[10 marks]**1 1**

Read **Item G** below and answer the question that follows.

Item G

Advances in technology have led to changes in the labour process. The way workers are managed has also changed.

Changes in the organisation of the labour process may affect people's satisfaction with their work.

Applying material from **Item G**, analyse **two** ways in which changes in the organisation of the labour process may affect people's satisfaction with their work.

[10 marks]**1 2**

Read **Item H** below and answer the question that follows.

Item H

Some sociologists suggest poverty exists because of structural factors. This means the organisation of society creates inequality. For example, Marxist sociologists argue that governments often operate in the interests of the wealthy by protecting private property and failing to provide support to those living in poverty.

Other sociologists suggest that it is the attitudes and behaviour of individuals that lead to poverty.

Applying material from **Item H** and your knowledge, evaluate the view that poverty is caused by structural factors.

[20 marks]**Turn over ►**

Section B

Choose **one** topic from this section and answer **all** the questions on that topic.

Topic B1 Beliefs in Society

1 3

Outline and explain **two** ways in which globalisation may have influenced religious beliefs and practices of minority ethnic groups in the UK.

[10 marks]**1 4**

Read **Item I** below and answer the question that follows.

Item I

Social change can involve periods of increased poverty and higher numbers of people living in such conditions. Individuals may feel uncertainty in times of rapid social change.

Social change may lead to the growth of sects.

Applying material from **Item I**, analyse **two** ways in which social change may lead to the growth of sects.

[10 marks]**1 5**

Read **Item J** below and answer the question that follows.

Item J

Defining religious belief and practice often creates problems. Some sociologists argue that religion should be defined in terms of its belief in a higher power. However, others argue that it should instead be defined in terms of the social role the belief system plays.

Measuring religious belief and practice can also pose problems. Whilst many individuals may claim to hold religious beliefs, the way they practise these beliefs may be difficult for sociologists to measure.

Applying material from **Item J** and your knowledge, evaluate the problems that sociologists may face when defining and measuring religious belief and practice.

[20 marks]

Topic B2 Global Development

1 6

Outline and explain **two** ways in which globalisation may affect health in developing countries.

[10 marks]**1 7**

Read **Item K** below and answer the question that follows.

Item K

Urbanisation in developing countries often involves the growth of shanty towns with poor living conditions. Urbanisation also brings about cultural change by exposing city dwellers to Western values and practices.

Urbanisation may affect the process of development.

Applying material from **Item K**, analyse **two** ways that urbanisation may affect the process of development.

[10 marks]**1 8**

Read **Item L** below and answer the question that follows.

Item L

Early theorists of development assumed that industrialisation and economic growth were essential. They paid little attention to the possible environmental impacts of development.

Today, there is much greater concern about the environment. Some sociologists argue that development can and should be sustainable so that there is less impact on the environment.

Applying material from **Item L** and your knowledge, evaluate sociological explanations of the relationship between development and the environment.

[20 marks]**Turn over ►**

Topic B3 The Media

1 9

Outline and explain **two** ways in which the ownership of the media can affect the content of the news.

[10 marks]**2 0**

Read **Item M** below and answer the question that follows.

Item M

The content of the mass media is often produced and controlled by professionals who are middle aged or older. It also concentrates on exciting stories and sensational headlines to attract audiences.

The content of the mass media sometimes represents young people in negative ways.

Applying material from **Item M**, analyse **two** reasons why the content of the mass media sometimes represents young people in negative ways.

[10 marks]**2 1**

Read **Item N** below and answer the question that follows.

Item N

The growth of new media in contemporary society has led some sociologists to reconsider some of the issues they study, such as the relationship between the media and their audiences and the importance of ownership and control of the media. They argue that new explanations are needed because new media are different from old media, such as television and newspapers.

However, others argue that the early theories about old media, such as pluralism and Marxism, can also be applied to new media.

Applying material from **Item N** and your knowledge, evaluate the usefulness of early media theories in explaining the role of the new media in contemporary society.

[20 marks]

Topic B4 Stratification and Differentiation

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Outline and explain **two** ways in which globalisation may affect social mobility.

[10 marks]

2	3
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Read **Item O** below and answer the question that follows.

Item O

Despite the Equal Pay Act and other measures, women earn less on average than men do in the UK today. At work women may encounter barriers to achieving the same positions as men.

Women may lack power in the UK today.

Applying material from **Item O**, analyse **two** ways in which women may lack power in the UK today.

[10 marks]

2	4
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Read **Item P** below and answer the question that follows.

Item P

Functionalists argue that stratification exists because it is necessary for social order. Members of society share a value consensus which means that they accept stratification as good for society.

However, other sociologists argue that stratification is neither necessary nor beneficial. It creates inequality, is unfair and can lead to conflict.

Applying material from **Item P** and your knowledge, evaluate functionalist explanations of stratification.

[20 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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