



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
January 2010

Sociology

SCLY3

Unit 3

Friday 22 January 2010 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 black ink or black 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 SCLY3.
- This paper is divided into **four** Sections.
Choose **one** Section.
Do **not** answer questions from more than one Section.
- 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 60.
- Questions and part-questions carrying 18 or more marks should be answered in continuous prose. In these questions you will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

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

SECTION A: BELIEFS IN SOCIETY

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) that follow.

Item A

Traditional religious organisations have faced many challenges over the past thirty years. In the past, their influence in society was considerable and they were seen as the mainstream spiritual movements. Some sociologists argue that most people participated in such organisations, even if only to reinforce their social status. These organisations also had substantial political power and influence.

5

However, changes in society over the past few decades have presented considerable challenges to the traditional roles and status of these organisations. Similarly, some sociologists argue that many people have reassessed their personal commitment to traditional religious organisations. As a result, such organisations have lost both support and membership.

10

- (a) Identify and briefly explain **three** reasons why traditional religious organisations may have lost support and/or membership over the past thirty years, **apart from** that referred to in **Item A**. *(9 marks)*
- (b) Using material from **Item A** and elsewhere, assess the view that most people today see spirituality and religious belief as purely private and personal matters. *(18 marks)*

EITHER

2 Assess the view that the main function of religious belief is to promote social stability. *(33 marks)*

OR

3 Critically examine the relationship between different social groups and their religious beliefs and practice. *(33 marks)*

SECTION B: GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

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) that follow.

Item B

There are two main strategies for development. Some countries aim to build up their economies by substituting home-made goods for expensive imports. Others try to grow by expanding their export trade. In both cases, developing countries often need help in the form of professional expertise, building an infrastructure, or managing growth. They also face other problems resulting from their lack of development, such as poor health among the population, lack of clean drinking water and low levels of education. 5

Governments of rich countries have traditionally provided aid in various forms to help developing countries. But nowadays many developing countries are reluctant to get too involved with foreign governments. However, they usually look more favourably on help from non-governmental organisations. 10

- (a) Identify and briefly explain **three** reasons why non-governmental organisations might be more effective than governments in helping developing countries (**Item B**). (9 marks)
- (b) Using material from **Item B** and elsewhere, assess the view that aid brings more harm than good to developing countries. (18 marks)

EITHER

- 5** Assess the impact of globalisation on the cultural, political and economic relationships between societies. (33 marks)

OR

- 6** Evaluate the contribution of modernisation theorists to our understanding of global development. (33 marks)

Turn over for Section C

Turn over ►

SECTION C: MASS MEDIA

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) that follow.

Item C

A common sense view of the news is that it simply gives us ‘the facts’. However, some sociologists have argued that the news is not simply ‘out there’ but that it is a social construct that is ‘manufactured’. More recently, it has been claimed that the process of globalisation has had significant effects on the mass media. News, for instance, is nowadays reported on a global scale. The news agenda itself is also truly international. 5

However, some sociologists argue that globalisation has led to media imperialism, where the news is dominated by an Anglo-American point of view. This may be mainly because there are only a limited number of news agencies around the world, mainly owned by western corporations. This view sees the United States in particular as having too much control over media output. Some sociologists argue that, if this is true, there could be a threat to the cultural identities of many countries. 10

- (a) Identify and briefly explain **three** ways in which the news could be said to be “a social construct that is ‘manufactured’.” (**Item C**, line 3). (9 marks)
- (b) Using material from **Item C** and elsewhere, assess the view that media imperialism threatens ‘the cultural identities of many countries’ (**Item C**, line 12). (18 marks)

EITHER

8 Assess the view that the output of the mass media has little direct effect on the audience. (33 marks)

OR

9 ‘Both age and ethnicity are still too often portrayed by the mass media in ways that reinforce stereotypes.’

To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view? (33 marks)

SECTION D: POWER AND POLITICS

If you choose this Section, answer Question 10 **and either** Question 11 **or** Question 12.

Total for this section: 60 marks

10 Read **Item D** below and answer parts (a) and (b) that follow.

Item D

Elections are the focus of considerable research by those wanting to analyse why people cast their votes for different political parties. It is clearly very useful to party leaders to identify the key factors that persuade people whether or not to support them.

Theories of voting behaviour in the past identified a range of social and cultural factors that have some influence on voters. For example, an individual's political socialisation has been shown to affect how they vote in the first election in which they take part. 5

More recently, theories have focused on factors such as instrumentalism. This means that the individual makes choices based on how the election of a particular party will affect them personally. In this instance, political parties can be likened to shops trying to attract customers to buy their goods. 10

- (a) Identify and briefly explain **three** social or cultural factors that may affect the way individuals cast their vote, **apart from** that referred to in **Item D**. (9 marks)
- (b) Using material from **Item D** and elsewhere, assess the view that elections in the United Kingdom in the last thirty years or so indicate that many voters have little loyalty to any particular political party. (18 marks)

EITHER

11 Assess the view that we now live in a society where there are no elites. (33 marks)

OR

12 Evaluate Marxist views of the nature and distribution of power in society today. (33 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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