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# A-level

# SOCIOLOGY

Paper 2 Topics in Sociology

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Thursday 15 June 2017

Afternoon

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.

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**Section A**

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

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**Topic A1 Culture and Identity**

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**0 1**

Outline and explain **two** ways in which subcultures may be related to the consumption of goods and services.

**[10 marks]**

**0 2**

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

**Item A**

In the last 60 years or so, patterns of work in the United Kingdom have changed. One reason for this is the development of new technologies. The nature of many workplaces has also changed and new types of job have appeared.

Changes in patterns of work have influenced gender identities during this period.

Applying material from **Item A**, analyse **two** ways in which changes in patterns of work may have influenced gender identities in the last 60 years or so.

**[10 marks]**

**0 3**

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

**Item B**

Many sociologists separate the self into two parts: how individuals see themselves, and how others see them. Interactionists argue that these two parts are closely connected, and that our sense of self is influenced by the reactions of people that we interact with in our everyday lives.

Other sociologists believe that we can only understand the individual's sense of self if we consider the influence of social structures such as class.

Applying material from **Item B** and your knowledge, evaluate interactionist explanations of how an individual's sense of self is socially constructed.

**[20 marks]**

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**Topic A2 Families and Households**

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**0 4**

Outline and explain **two** ways in which changing gender roles within the family may have affected children's experience of childhood.

**[10 marks]****0 5**

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

**Item C**

In the 1950s, most immigrants into the United Kingdom came from Commonwealth countries such as India and Jamaica. More recently, many immigrants have come from European Union countries such as Poland. Many immigrants are young adults seeking work.

These migration patterns have affected household structures.

Applying material from **Item C**, analyse **two** ways in which migration patterns have affected household structures in the United Kingdom.

**[10 marks]****0 6**

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

**Item D**

Functionalists believe the family has its own important role to play in helping society to function effectively. In each type of society, one particular type of family will be the norm. This family type will fit the needs both of its individual members and of society as a whole.

Other sociologists believe that functionalists fail to consider ways in which families are dysfunctional.

Applying material from **Item D** and your knowledge, evaluate functionalist explanations of the role of the family in society.

**[20 marks]**

**Turn over for the next topic**

**Turn over ►**

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**Topic A3 Health**

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**0 7**

Outline and explain **two** reasons why women may be more likely than men to be diagnosed as mentally ill.

**[10 marks]**

**0 8**

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

**Item E**

One aspect of globalisation has been the growth of a huge globalised health industry, involving transnational corporations. These organisations have enormous political, economic and cultural power.

Health care in the United Kingdom has been affected in several ways by this worldwide health industry.

Applying material from **Item E**, analyse **two** ways in which the globalised health industry affects health care in the United Kingdom.

**[10 marks]**

**0 9**

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

**Item F**

Different models offer competing explanations of health and illness. One model sees health and illness as socially constructed. This approach attempts to explain why some people are defined as being ill and others are not.

Other sociologists believe that health and illness can only be fully understood if we take structural factors into account.

Applying material from **Item F** and your knowledge, evaluate the view that health and illness are socially constructed.

**[20 marks]**

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**Topic A4 Work, Poverty and Welfare**

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**1 0**

Outline and explain **two** ways in which government policies may have increased the number of people living in poverty.

**[10 marks]****1 1**

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

**Item G**

Worklessness can include both unemployment and underemployment. There are a variety of reasons why people become workless. The nature of worklessness may depend on an individual's social position.

Worklessness can affect people's life chances in both positive and negative ways.

Applying material from **Item G**, analyse **two** ways in which worklessness may affect people's life chances.

**[10 marks]****1 2**

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

**Item H**

Despite the Equal Pay Act, gender differences in income remain. Women's gross hourly earnings are on average about one-fifth lower than men's. Similarly, single women pensioners are one of the groups most at risk of poverty.

Feminists argue that gender differences in poverty are caused by the patriarchal nature of society.

Applying material from **Item H** and your knowledge, evaluate the view that gender differences in poverty are caused by patriarchy.

**[20 marks]****Turn over for the next section****Turn over ►**

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**Section B**

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

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**Topic B1 Beliefs in Society**

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**1 3**

Outline and explain **two** reasons why sects tend to recruit members from particular social groups.

**[10 marks]**

**1 4**

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

**Item I**

Religion gives people principles by which they can live their lives and gives them a profound sense of being right. Religious beliefs sometimes lead believers to act in ways that can have unforeseen consequences for society.

Many sociologists therefore argue that religion can lead to social change.

Applying material from **Item I**, analyse **two** ways in which religion can lead to social change.

**[10 marks]**

**1 5**

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

**Item J**

The development of modern society has been accompanied by a scientific approach to understanding and controlling the world. Scientific explanations, based on evidence and reason, have challenged religious explanations based on faith.

However, religion continues to play an important role in many people's lives today.

Applying material from **Item J** and your knowledge, evaluate the view that science has a greater influence than religion on people's lives today.

**[20 marks]**

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**Topic B2 Global Development**

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**1 6**

Outline and explain **two** ways in which the process of development may affect people's health chances.

**[10 marks]**

**1 7**

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

**Item K**

Industrialisation involves a shift from agriculture to large-scale, capital-intensive production of goods in factories. It changes the types of things that people consume and how much they consume.

Industrialisation may affect the environment in a number of ways.

Applying material from **Item K**, analyse **two** ways in which industrialisation may affect the environment.

**[10 marks]**

**1 8**

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

**Item L**

Several different types of agencies are involved in the development process. These include non-governmental organisations (NGOs) such as Oxfam and Save the Children. NGOs differ widely in terms of the scale and focus of their work.

Sociologists disagree about the effects that these organisations have on the development process.

Applying material from **Item L** and your knowledge, evaluate the contribution of non-governmental organisations to the development process.

**[20 marks]**

**Turn over for the next topic**

**Turn over ►**

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**Topic B3 The Media**

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**1 9**

Outline and explain **two** ways in which the new media may be creating a global popular culture.

**[10 marks]****2 0**

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

**Item M**

There are many different ethnic groups in society today. Many of these are under-represented in positions of power, but over-represented in powerless groups in society. Some minority ethnic groups have different cultural beliefs, values and practices from those of mainstream society.

The media often portray minority ethnic groups negatively.

Applying material from **Item M**, analyse **two** reasons why the media often portray minority ethnic groups negatively.

**[10 marks]****2 1**

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

**Item N**

From a pluralist perspective, the media are an important part of the democratic process, because they give different interest groups the opportunity to put forward their views. Pluralists also argue that the media respond to the needs of the audience.

However, other sociologists argue that powerful groups are able to control the output of the media so that it reflects their own interests.

Applying material from **Item N** and your knowledge, evaluate the pluralist view of the ownership and control of the media.

**[20 marks]**

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**Topic B4 Stratification and Differentiation**

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2	2
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 Outline and explain **two** ways in which ethnicity may affect life chances. **[10 marks]**

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

**Item O**

Social mobility refers to the movement of individuals between social classes. In a meritocratic society there is equal opportunity for all, and anyone can achieve social mobility by working their way up the occupational ladder.

In practice, there may be factors that prevent women from being socially mobile.

Applying material from **Item O**, analyse **two** factors that may prevent women from being socially mobile. **[10 marks]**

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

**Item P**

Weberian sociologists argue that inequality has several dimensions, such as class, status and power.

However, Marxist sociologists argue that social class is always the most important of these dimensions.

Applying material from **Item P** and your knowledge, evaluate sociological explanations of the relationship between class, status and power. **[20 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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