



A-level

SOCIOLOGY

Paper 2 Topics in Sociology

Tuesday 2 June 2020

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.

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 in which social class may have become less important in shaping identities.

[10 marks]

0 2

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

Item A

Mass culture is usually seen as commercially produced by businesses for profit rather than being created by ordinary people or reflecting their experiences. Mass culture is also seen as oversimplified, requiring little thought or evaluation.

Mass culture may prevent social change.

Applying material from **Item A**, analyse **two** ways in which mass culture may prevent social change.

[10 marks]

0 3

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

Item B

Feminist sociologists often emphasise the ways in which the socialisation process encourages people to conform to hegemonic masculine and feminine identities that reinforce patriarchy.

However, other sociologists have argued that people actively construct their gender identities, and that gender identities have become much more fluid.

Applying material from **Item B** and your knowledge, evaluate feminist views of the extent to which the socialisation process reinforces patriarchy.

[20 marks]

Topic A2 Families and Households

0 4

Outline and explain **two** ways in which changing childbearing patterns may have influenced gender roles and relationships within families and households.

[10 marks]**0 5**

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

Item C

Globalisation involves the growing inter-connectedness between countries through increased travel opportunities. It enables more freedom of choice in terms of lifestyles and personal relationships.

Globalisation may influence families and households.

Applying material from **Item C**, analyse **two** ways in which globalisation may influence families and households.

[10 marks]**0 6**

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

Item D

Some sociologists argue that UK society has become more child-centred. Children today are more privileged than they have ever been. There are a large range of laws and policies in place to protect them and there is an increasing emphasis now placed on children's rights.

However, other sociologists argue that the extent of child-centredness is exaggerated, and that childhood can be a negative experience for some children.

Applying material from **Item D** and your knowledge, evaluate the view that UK society has become more child-centred.

[20 marks]

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►

Topic A3 Health

0 7

Outline and explain **two** reasons for social class differences in consumer choices of health care.

[10 marks]

0 8

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

Item E

Black and other minority ethnic groups in the UK are more likely than the majority to experience low incomes and live in disadvantaged areas. The cultural values of these groups often prioritise support from the family and community rather than outside support.

There are inequalities between ethnic groups in their health chances.

Applying material from **Item E**, analyse **two** reasons for inequalities between ethnic groups in their health chances.

[10 marks]

0 9

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

Item F

Rates of mental illness vary between different social groups, such as those based on social class, gender and ethnicity. Some explanations of mental illness point to social issues such as racism, sexism, poor housing and poverty as contributing factors.

Others argue that mental illness is a label applied to deviant behaviour. Mental illness is socially constructed through interpretations made by others.

Applying material from **Item F** and your knowledge, evaluate sociological explanations of the differences in rates of mental illness between social groups.

[20 marks]

Topic A4 Work, Poverty and Welfare

1	0
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Outline and explain **two** ways in which government policies have affected the distribution of income in the UK.

[10 marks]

1	1
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Read **Item G** below and answer the question that follows.

Item G

The values and attitudes of some members of the working class may lead to them accepting their position in society. Patriarchal values mean that females can be disadvantaged.

Some social groups are more likely than others to experience poverty.

Applying material from **Item G**, analyse **two** reasons why some social groups are more likely than others to experience poverty.

[10 marks]

1	2
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Read **Item H** below and answer the question that follows.

Item H

Worklessness affects retired people and those unable to work as well as unemployed people. People without work are more likely to be disadvantaged than those in work. They are excluded from some aspects of social life and their life chances are diminished. There are others who do not work because they have sufficient wealth.

However, some sociologists argue that work is now less important as a source of identity and that worklessness has become less significant.

Applying material from **Item H** and your knowledge, evaluate sociological explanations of the effects of worklessness on people's lives and life chances.

[20 marks]

Turn over for the next question

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** reasons why women are more likely than men to participate in New Age movements.

[10 marks]

1 4

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

Item I

Secularisation theory explains the decline in religious participation across parts of Europe, but it does not explain why religion continues to be popular in other parts of the world. It also fails to recognise that religion may be changing rather than declining.

The extent of secularisation may have been exaggerated.

Applying material from **Item I**, analyse **two** reasons why the extent of secularisation may have been exaggerated.

[10 marks]

1 5

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

Item J

Some sociologists argue that religion acts as a force for social change. It can be used to challenge mainstream beliefs and values, and inspire protest against the existing social order.

However, other sociologists suggest that the relationship between religion and social change is not straightforward and that religion can even prevent social change.

Applying material from **Item J** and your knowledge, evaluate the view that religion acts as a force for social change.

[20 marks]

Topic B2 Global Development

1 6

Outline and explain **two** ways in which development can lead to demographic changes.

[10 marks]

1 7

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

Item K

Development can lead to new ways for previously exploited groups to improve their situation. It can also cause powerful groups to feel threatened by changes and lead them to assert what are seen as traditional attitudes and practices.

Development can affect gender inequalities.

Applying material from **Item K**, analyse **two** ways in which development can affect gender inequalities.

[10 marks]

1 8

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

Item L

According to some sociologists, aid is essential for development because it helps countries reach take-off and industrialise.

However, other sociologists are critical of aid and point out that many countries receiving aid have made little progress. Others argue that the real purpose of aid is to ensure a free market system that creates underdevelopment.

Applying material from **Item L** and your knowledge, evaluate the view that aid is essential for development.

[20 marks]

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►

Topic B3 The Media

1 9

Outline and explain **two** ways in which new media may have affected the selection and presentation of news.

[10 marks]**2 0**

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

Item M

Media corporations have the power to produce images of lifestyles through which people form their identities. The wide reach of these corporations has led to local cultures becoming less important.

Media corporations may contribute to a growth in global culture.

Applying material from **Item M**, analyse **two** ways in which media corporations may contribute to a growth in global culture.

[10 marks]**2 1**

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

Item N

Some sociologists argue that audiences control media content through their choices as consumers. They claim that competition between media for audiences means that owners and companies have limited power over content.

However, other sociologists argue that those who own and work in the media control the content. This means that the content can be biased and reflect dominant ideologies.

Applying material from **Item N** and your knowledge, evaluate the view that the media reflect the views of their audiences.

[20 marks]

Topic B4 Stratification and Differentiation

2 2

Outline and explain **two** factors which may lead to some members of the working class achieving upward social mobility.

[10 marks]

2 3

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

Item O

Sociologists have increasingly recognised age as a dimension of inequality. For example, young people do not have all the same rights that adults do. Many older people are no longer in paid employment.

Age may affect an individual's status.

Applying material from **Item O**, analyse **two** ways in which age may affect an individual's status.

[10 marks]

2 4

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

Item P

Feminist sociologists argue that gender is the most important dimension of inequality today. This is despite some improvements in the social position of women.

However, other sociologists see gender inequalities as natural and inevitable, or argue that other dimensions of inequality are more important.

Applying material from **Item P** and your knowledge, evaluate the view that gender is the most important dimension of inequality today.

[20 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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