
A-level SOCIOLOGY

Paper 2 Topics in Sociology

Tuesday 4 June 2019

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
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Outline and explain **two** ways in which individuals may be socialised into national identities.

[10 marks]

0	2
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Read **Item A** below and answer the question that follows.

Item A

Agencies of socialisation contribute to people's identities in various ways. The media have given people greater access to other cultures. At the same time, workplaces are changing as people become less likely to have jobs for life.

Applying material from **Item A**, analyse **two** ways in which agencies of socialisation have contributed to growing uncertainty about identities.

[10 marks]

0	3
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Read **Item B** below and answer the question that follows.

Item B

Marxist sociologists argue that mass culture makes people passive consumers and undermines their ability to think critically about society. Marxists also say that cultural industries make products for profit rather than for their merit.

Other sociologists prefer to use the term popular culture, rather than mass culture, because this suggests diversity and choice.

Applying material from **Item B** and your knowledge, evaluate sociological contributions to the understanding of mass culture.

[20 marks]

Topic A2 Families and Households

0	4
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Outline and explain **two** ways in which an ageing population may have led to policies that affect families and households today.

[10 marks]

0	5
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Read **Item C** below and answer the question that follows.

Item C

Many marriages now end in divorce. This often creates lone-parent families and single-person households. Serial monogamy has also become a common pattern, with many divorced people remarrying.

Applying material from **Item C**, analyse **two** ways in which changing patterns of marriage and divorce have affected the experience of childhood.

[10 marks]

0	6
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Read **Item D** below and answer the question that follows.

Item D

Feminist sociologists emphasise the harmful effects of the conventional nuclear family on women. They see it as playing a role in the continuing oppression of women. This is evident in areas such as domestic violence, paid employment and power.

Other sociologists reject this negative view of the family and argue that it is essential for society.

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

[20 marks]

Turn over ►

Topic A3 Health

0	7
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Outline and explain **two** ways in which health professionals may contribute to the social construction of health and illness.

[10 marks]

0	8
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Read **Item E** below and answer the question that follows.

Item E

The growth of the global health industry in recent years has meant that a wider range of services and products are now available. The needs of this industry to maintain sales and profits can conflict with people's health needs.

Applying material from **Item E**, analyse **two** ways in which the global health industry may affect people's health.

[10 marks]

0	9
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Read **Item F** below and answer the question that follows.

Item F

There are gender differences in people's experiences of both health chances and health care. Some feminist sociologists explain these by referring to women's position in society and the patriarchal nature of mainstream medicine.

However, women's death rates at all ages are lower than men's.

Applying material from **Item F** and your knowledge, evaluate sociological explanations of gender differences in both health chances and health care.

[20 marks]

Topic A4 Work, Poverty and Welfare

1	0
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Outline and explain **two** ways in which worklessness may be caused by structural inequalities between different social classes.

[10 marks]

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

Item G

The social democratic approach to welfare is based on the idea that all citizens have a right to receive benefits from the state. Some sociologists argue that the welfare state is too generous and reject the view that the government should be responsible for welfare provision.

Applying material from **Item G**, analyse **two** possible effects of the social democratic approach to welfare provision.

[10 marks]

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

Item H

Some sociologists suggest that technology has had a negative impact on workers in the labour process. For example, Marxists argue that mass-production assembly lines have led to the deskilling of work and greater managerial control over workers.

However, critics of the Marxist view argue that it is outdated and point to the positive impacts of technology on the experience of work.

Applying material from **Item H** and your knowledge, evaluate sociological explanations of the impact of technology on the labour process.

[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
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Outline and explain **two** ways in which churches may act as conservative forces.

[10 marks]

1	4
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Read **Item I** below and answer the question that follows.

Item I

Globalisation involves the spread of a worldview based on science and rationality. In some places people have rejected this worldview and have revitalised religious traditions.

Applying material from **Item I**, analyse **two** ways in which globalisation may affect the extent of secularisation.

[10 marks]

1	5
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Read **Item J** below and answer the question that follows.

Item J

There are differences between women and men in levels of religious belief and participation in religious activities. Feminist sociologists focus on women's subordination to men and see religion and religious organisations as playing a part in maintaining patriarchal society.

However, despite this, women appear to be more religious than men.

Applying material from **Item J** and your knowledge, evaluate sociological explanations of the relationship between gender and religious beliefs and practices.

[20 marks]

Topic B2 Global Development

1	6
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Outline and explain **two** ways in which globalisation may affect global inequalities.

[10 marks]

1	7
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Read **Item K** below and answer the question that follows.

Item K

Many of the world's least developed countries have been affected by war and conflict. A war is likely to take up a considerable part of a state's resources. Wars also increase inequalities because many victims are from already disadvantaged groups.

Applying material from **Item K**, analyse **two** ways in which war and conflict may affect the process of development.

[10 marks]

1	8
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Read **Item L** below and answer the question that follows.

Item L

Globalisation has involved an increase in the number, size and importance of transnational corporations (TNCs). Modernisation theorists and neo-liberals see these corporations as essential for development because they spread capitalism and Western values that lead to economic growth.

However, other sociologists argue that TNCs are an important part of a global system that prevents poorer countries developing.

Applying material from **Item L** and your knowledge, evaluate sociological explanations of the role of transnational corporations in development.

[20 marks]

Turn over ►

Topic B3 The Media

1	9
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Outline and explain **two** ways in which the new media enable people to challenge stereotypical media portrayals of women.

[10 marks]

2	0
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Read **Item M** below and answer the question that follows.

Item M

People are increasingly being exposed to violent content in the media. Some sociologists argue that this has an immediate and negative effect on the audience. Other sociologists point to the positive effects of such content on people's well-being.

Applying material from **Item M**, analyse **two** possible effects of the output of the media on their audiences.

[10 marks]

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

Item N

Sociological research has outlined various ways in which the news is socially constructed. Marxists argue that both the selection and the presentation of news are inevitably biased and reflect the interests of powerful groups.

However, other sociologists argue that media personnel are professionals and that news-gathering is a fairly objective process.

Applying material from **Item N** and your knowledge, evaluate the view that both the selection and the presentation of the news are ideologically biased.

[20 marks]

Topic B4 Stratification and Differentiation

2	2
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Outline and explain **two** ways in which changes in the class structure may affect social mobility.

[10 marks]

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

Item O

Sociologists researching stratification have often decided what class people belong to by asking for their occupation. This dates back to a time when most families had only one wage-earner. Today, employment has changed, with the labour market becoming more fluid.

Applying material from **Item O**, analyse **two** problems in measuring people's social class by their occupations.

[10 marks]

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

Item P

Marxist sociologists argue that social class is the dominant factor in determining people's life chances. They say that there are still significant differences between social classes.

However, other sociologists have argued that social class is no longer as important as it was, and that other factors, such as gender and ethnicity, are now more important.

Applying material from **Item P** and your knowledge, evaluate the view that social class is still the dominant factor in determining people's life chances today.

[20 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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