



AS SOCIOLOGY

Paper 2 Research Methods and Topics in Sociology

Tuesday 20 May 2025

Morning

Time allowed: 1 hour and 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-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 7191/2.
- Answer **all** questions 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 60.
- Questions carrying 10 marks or more 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.

Section A**Research Methods**

Answer **all** questions in this section.

0	1
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Outline **two** factors that influence a sociologist's choice of research topic.

[4 marks]

0	2
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Evaluate the disadvantages of using official statistics in sociological research.

[16 marks]

Section B

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

Topic B1 Culture and Identity

0	3
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Define the term 'popular culture'.

[2 marks]

0	4
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Using **one** example, briefly explain how the perceptions of others may affect an individual's sense of identity.

[2 marks]

0	5
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Outline **three** characteristics of a subculture.

[6 marks]

0	6
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Outline and explain **two** ways in which an individual's social experiences may be shaped by ethnicity.

[10 marks]

0	7
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Read **Item A** below and answer the question that follows.

Item A

Some feminists argue that the role of socialisation is to reinforce patriarchy and gender inequality. They suggest that agencies of socialisation, such as the family and the media, transmit values that justify gender inequality and reproduce traditional gender roles.

However, other sociologists argue that patriarchy has significantly declined in society. Some view the socialisation process in a more positive light, arguing that it creates harmony and stability in society.

Applying material from **Item A** and your knowledge, evaluate the feminist view that the role of socialisation is to reinforce and reproduce patriarchy.

[20 marks]

Turn over for the next topic

Turn over ►

Topic B2 Families and Households

0	8
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Define the term 'dual burden'.

[2 marks]

0	9
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Using **one** example, briefly explain why there has been a decline in marriage rates.**[2 marks]**

1	0
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Outline **three** reasons why lone parent families are more likely to be headed by a woman.**[6 marks]**

1	1
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Outline and explain **two** ways in which family diversity may impact on the domestic division of labour.**[10 marks]**

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

Marxists see social institutions as serving the interests of capitalism. They argue that institutions such as the family help to maintain the system of class inequality and exploitation. One way in which the family does this is by socialising children into accepting hierarchies. The family is also an important market for consumer goods.

Alternatively, functionalists argue that the family performs vital functions for society. For example, it benefits family members by offering mutual support and emotional satisfaction.

Applying material from **Item B** and your knowledge, evaluate the Marxist view that the main role of the family is to serve the interests of capitalism.

[20 marks]

Topic B3 Health

- 1 3** Define the term 'diseases of affluence'. **[2 marks]**
- 1 4** Using **one** example, briefly explain how disability can be seen to be socially constructed. **[2 marks]**
- 1 5** Outline **three** reasons for ethnic differences in the patterns of mental illness. **[6 marks]**
- 1 6** Outline and explain **two** reasons why there may be social class differences in the take up of advice to prevent illness or disease. **[10 marks]**
- 1 7** Read **Item C** below and answer the question that follows.

Item C

Weberian sociologists argue that the medical profession use various strategies to maintain their high status and power over patients. Furthermore, they believe that the medical profession may serve the interests of themselves rather than their patients.

This contrasts with the functionalist view that sees the medical profession as protecting patients and benefitting society.

Applying material from **Item C** and your knowledge, evaluate the view that the medical profession may serve the interests of themselves rather than their patients.

[20 marks]

Turn over for the next topic

Turn over ►

Topic B4 Work, Poverty and Welfare

1	8
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Define the term 'absolute poverty'.

[2 marks]

1	9
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Using **one** example, briefly explain why wealthy people are likely to remain wealthy.**[2 marks]**

2	0
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Outline **three** possible effects of retirement on individuals.**[6 marks]**

2	1
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Outline and explain **two** reasons why manual workers may experience high levels of alienation at work.**[10 marks]**

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

Marxists argue that the welfare state fails to tackle the real causes of poverty. In fact, it helps to maintain the current system of social inequality by providing a minimum standard of living. This minimum standard deals with the worst extremes of poverty and therefore helps to prevent serious opposition to the way capitalist society is organised.

However, sociologists from a social democratic perspective argue that the welfare state does in fact address poverty and is an important part of government strategy to abolish poverty in society.

Applying material from **Item D** and your knowledge, evaluate the view that the welfare state has failed to tackle the real causes of poverty.

[20 marks]**END OF QUESTIONS**

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