OCR
Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Wednesday 12 June 2019 – Morning

A Level Sociology

H580/03 Debates in contemporary society

Time allowed: 2 hours 15 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS
• Use black ink.
• Section A: Answer **all** the questions in this section.
• Section B: Choose **one** option and answer **all** the questions in the option you have chosen.
• Write your answers in the Answer Booklet. The question number(s) must be clearly shown.

INFORMATION
• The total mark for this paper is **105**.
• The marks for each question are shown in brackets **[ ]**.
• Quality of extended responses will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).
• This document consists of **4** pages.

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Turn over

SECTION A

Read the source material and answer **all** the questions in Section A.

Source A

Developments in digital forms of communication have increased access to information about people across the world. Very large data sets known as 'big data' include huge amounts of information about every area of social life. Analysis of this data reveals patterns and trends which can be accessed through search engines such as Google. Furthermore, new digital communication opportunities such as social media enable these new insights to be shared with people across the world. Increased knowledge and awareness of other people's lives may reveal inequalities and injustices. Social media may then be used to help mobilise people to join mass protests and social movements to challenge inequalities and bring about social change. As a result of this, some believe that social media can help change the course of history.

Source B

Access to huge amounts of data which provides opportunities to gain an insight into people's lives may increase social capital for those experiencing inequality. However, the quantity of the information gathered from multiple sources can make analysing the data a very difficult task. Misinterpretation can occur. Also, those who have gained insights from 'big data' may face difficulties if they wish to share their views with others across the world. For example, not everyone has access to social media or other platforms. Those who join social movements and mass protests may discover that the opposition may also use the same social media platforms to challenge the protests and prevent social change.

1* With reference to the Source(s) and your wider sociological knowledge, explain the impact of developments in digital communication technology on the way information is collected and used.

[9]

2 With reference to the Source(s) and your wider sociological knowledge, to what extent has the development of social media helped social movements bring about social change? **[10]**

3 Evaluate the sociological view that new forms of digital communication are controlled by the ruling class. **[16]**

SECTION B

Choose **one** option from Section B and answer **all** the questions for that option.

OPTION 1

Crime and deviance

4* In what ways are crimes committed by the middle classes different from all other forms of crime? **[10]**

5* Assess right wing solutions to the problem of crime. **[20]**

6* Evaluate functionalist explanations of crime and deviance. **[40]**

OPTION 2

Education

7* In what ways do cultural factors influence ethnic differences in educational attainment? **[10]**

8* Assess the impact of educational policies on equality in relation to social class. **[20]**

9* Evaluate Marxist explanations of the role of education in society. **[40]**

OPTION 3

Religion, belief and faith

10* In what ways do patterns of religiosity vary in a global context? **[10]**

11* Assess the view that religion, belief and faith are declining in the younger generations. **[20]**

12* Evaluate Marxist explanations of the relationship between religion and social change. **[40]**

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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