



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
June 2015

Sociology

SCLY3

Unit 3 Beliefs in Society; Global Development; Mass Media; Power and Politics

Monday 15 June 2015 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 minutes

A

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is SCLY3.
- This paper is divided into **four** sections.
- Choose **one** section.
- Do **not** answer questions from more than one section.
- 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 18 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.

Choose **one** section. Do **not** answer questions from more than one section.

Section A Beliefs in Society

If you choose this section, answer questions

0	1
---	---

 and

0	2
---	---

and either question

0	3
---	---

 or question

0	4
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Read **Item A** below and answer questions

0	1
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 and

0	2
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 that follow.

Item A

Sociologists disagree about the role and functions of religion in society. Some argue that religion is the glue that holds society together and keeps society stable. Others look at religion at the personal level and argue that religion helps individuals to cope with stress and to deal with crises in life.

Not all take such a positive view of religion. For example, some Marxist sociologists claim religion helps to keep society stable, but it does so only by keeping the working class passive. Indeed, Marxists have called religion ‘the opium of the people’.

0	1
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Identify and briefly explain **three** ways in which science may have more influence than religion on social life today.

[9 marks]

0	2
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Using material from **Item A** and elsewhere, assess the view that religion is ‘the opium of the people’.

[18 marks]

Either

0	3
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‘Religion is now about consumerism, where spiritual shoppers look in the spiritual marketplace for a product that suits their lifestyle.’

To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view?

[33 marks]

or

0	4
---	---

Critically examine the reasons why people join sects and New Age movements.

[33 marks]

Section B Global Development

If you choose this section, answer questions

0	5
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 and

0	6
---	---

and either question

0	7
---	---

 or question

0	8
---	---

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Read **Item B** below and answer questions

0	5
---	---

 and

0	6
---	---

 that follow.

Item B

The process of development is usually lengthy and complex. For most countries seeking to develop their economies, difficulties arise such as attracting investment and building up a trained labour force. Each of these areas is problematic and there is no guarantee of the eventual success of development plans.

Over the past few decades a further complication has affected development. People have become more environmentally aware and this has led to concerns that some forms of development permanently damage the environment. However, some argue that economic growth must be the priority for developing countries, and that environmental conservation is a luxury they cannot afford.

0	5
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Identify and briefly explain **three** ways in which internal wars and conflicts may harm developing countries.

[9 marks]

0	6
---	---

Using material from **Item B** and elsewhere, assess the view that developing countries cannot afford to worry about damage to the environment.

[18 marks]

Either

0	7
---	---

Evaluate the role of non-governmental organisations in the process of development.

[33 marks]

or

0	8
---	---

‘Some countries become rich because others stay poor.’

To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view?

[33 marks]

Turn over for Section C

Turn over ►

Section C Mass Media

If you choose this section, answer questions

0	9
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 and

1	0
---	---

and either question

1	1
---	---

 or question

1	2
---	---

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Read **Item C** below and answer questions

0	9
---	---

 and

1	0
---	---

 that follow.

Item C

The mass media have an important influence in society today and many governments have imposed regulations to try to limit or control this influence. The growth of new media has produced a new range of issues and has challenged some of the traditional theories of the media.

Recent theories, such as those from postmodernist sociologists, focus on issues such as the consequences of media saturation, how the media shape people's identity and the concept of a virtual reality.

0	9
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 Identify and briefly explain **three** ways in which the new media have changed the processes of selection and/or presentation of the news.
[9 marks]

1	0
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 Using material from **Item C** and elsewhere, assess postmodernist views of the mass media in society today.
[18 marks]

Either

1	1
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 Critically examine the relationship between ownership and control of the mass media.
[33 marks]

or

1	2
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 'There are many models that seek to explain how the relationship between the mass media and their audiences operates, but none is fully convincing.'

To what extent do sociological arguments and evidence support this view?
[33 marks]

Section D Power and Politics

If you choose this section, answer questions

1	3
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 and

1	4
---	---

and either question

1	5
---	---

 or question

1	6
---	---

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Read **Item D** below and answer questions

1	3
---	---

 and

1	4
---	---

 that follow.

Item D

Globalists believe that the process of globalisation is having real and positive effects on the way in which people and organisations work in the world today. Globalisation impacts on cultures and economies. Some sociologists argue that spreading capitalism will also lead to the spread of democracy.

However, some people do not see these changes as positive. Sociologists such as Seabrook (2005) see globalisation as a form of western imperialism that will inevitably lead to frictions between countries. Others argue that transnational corporations are now the driving force of change.

1	3
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 Identify and briefly explain **three** characteristics of new social movements. **[9 marks]**

1	4
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 Using material from **Item D** and elsewhere, assess the view that globalisation has fundamentally changed politics over the past thirty years or so. **[18 marks]**

Either

1	5
---	---

 Evaluate the effectiveness of different forms of political participation in bringing about social change. **[33 marks]**

or

1	6
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 Evaluate the contribution of sociologists from different perspectives to our understanding of the distribution and use of power in society today. **[33 marks]**

END OF QUESTIONS

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