
A-level SOCIOLOGY

Paper 2 Topics in Sociology

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** reasons why consumption may be affected by social class.

[10 marks]

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

Item A

The choices people make about their identities are constrained by how others see them and interpret their behaviour. However, they can also choose to reject how others see them.

An individual's identity may be affected by being labelled as disabled.

Applying material from **Item A**, analyse **two** ways an individual's identity may be affected by being labelled as disabled.

[10 marks]

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

Item B

Globalisation involves greater connections between different parts of the world, and these have made people more aware of how others live. This may help people create new identities, for example by using social media.

Some sociologists argue that this weakens the strong sense of identity that many people used to have, for example based on family and community. Other sociologists point out that not everyone can afford to be part of a global culture based on consumerism, brands and fashions.

Applying material from **Item B** and your knowledge, evaluate the view that globalisation is increasingly shaping people's identities.

[20 marks]

Topic A2 Families and Households

0	4
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Outline and explain **two** ways in which the functions of the family may have been affected by changes to its structure.

[10 marks]

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

Item C

In the UK, there has been an increase in divorce since the 1960s. There are also more same sex couples than in the past.

Family diversity in the UK has been influenced by government policies.

Applying material from **Item C**, analyse **two** ways in which family diversity in the UK has been influenced by government policies.

[10 marks]

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

Item D

Despite many changes in society, some feminist sociologists argue that gender roles and relationships within the family remain unequal. Women still take responsibility for housework and childcare, and men still dominate in terms of power and financial control.

However, other sociologists argue that there is evidence that gender roles and relationships are becoming more equal. For example, men now take on a more domestic role.

Applying material from **Item D** and your knowledge, evaluate the view that gender roles and relationships within the family are still unequal 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 affect social class inequalities in health and illness.

[10 marks]

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

Item E

Males may be socialised to be tough and strong in order to achieve masculinity. Females may be socialised into the importance of having a feminine identity.

Gender may affect how the body is socially constructed.

Applying material from **Item E**, analyse **two** ways in which gender may affect how the body is socially constructed.

[10 marks]

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

Item F

Some ethnic groups in the UK are at a greater risk of illness and early death than others. There are various explanations for these differences. Many sociologists believe language barriers and cultural values are the main causes of inequalities in health and illness between ethnic groups.

However, other sociologists suggest the differences between ethnic groups are a consequence of racism in society or of their positions in the class structure.

Applying material from **Item F** and your knowledge, evaluate sociological explanations of differences in health and illness between ethnic groups in the UK.

[20 marks]

Topic A4 Work, Poverty and Welfare

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Outline and explain **two** ways in which poverty amongst women may be caused by their experience of work.

[10 marks]

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

Item G

Globalisation has led to an increase in international migration because of easier access to transport. It has also changed the way corporations operate, contributing to greater profits.

Globalisation has had effects on employment in the UK.

Applying material from **Item G**, analyse **two** ways in which globalisation has affected employment in the UK.

[10 marks]

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

Item H

The welfare state was created to improve the lives and life chances of people in the UK. It has provided significant support to disadvantaged groups such as the poor. For example, various welfare state policies have been implemented to assist with housing and employment.

New Right sociologists argue that people may become dependent on welfare support if it is too generous. Other sociologists argue that welfare state policies have not reduced poverty in the UK.

Applying material from **Item H** and your knowledge, evaluate the impact of welfare state policies on reducing poverty in the UK.

[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

Outline and explain **two** ways that globalisation may have influenced the way in which religion acts as a force for change.

[10 marks]**1 4**

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

Item I

Churches are generally seen as traditional and conservative in their beliefs. They also tend to have a strict hierarchy of power.

The characteristics of churches are different from those of New Age movements.

Applying material from **Item I**, analyse **two** ways in which the characteristics of churches are different from those of New Age movements.

[10 marks]**1 5**

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

Item J

Secularisation is the declining importance of religion. Some sociologists argue that within the UK, religious beliefs and organisations are losing significance. Fewer people are attending churches than ever before and there are smaller numbers of religious ceremonies such as weddings.

However, others argue that religion is not losing importance. This only appears to be the case because the way people interact with religion is changing over time.

Applying material from **Item J** and your knowledge, evaluate the view that the UK is becoming increasingly secular.

[20 marks]

Topic B2 Global Development

1 6

Outline and explain **two** ways in which gender inequalities in developing countries may be influenced by non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

[10 marks]**1 7**

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

Item K

Globalisation can lead to opportunities for some developing countries to start new industries. It can also lead to changes in the ways people can support themselves and their families.

Globalisation can bring about economic changes in developing countries.

Applying material from **Item K**, analyse **two** ways in which globalisation may bring about economic changes in developing countries.

[10 marks]**1 8**

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

Item L

According to modernisation theorists, undeveloped countries should try to copy what today's developed countries did in the past. This will allow them to achieve economic growth and 'take off' to a modernised economy and society.

However, others argue that this will lead to underdeveloped countries being unable to escape from poverty.

Applying material from **Item L** and your knowledge, evaluate modernisation theory explanations of development.

[20 marks]**Turn over ►**

Topic B3 The Media

1	9
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Outline and explain **two** ways that new media may be changing popular culture.

[10 marks]

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

Item M

Globalisation has led large corporations to operate on a global scale and have consumers around the world. Many of these consumers now have more choice than in the past when they were limited to what was produced locally.

Globalisation has affected the relationship between the media and their audiences.

Applying material from **Item M**, analyse **two** ways that globalisation may have affected the relationship between the media and their audiences.

[10 marks]

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

Item N

Marxist sociologists argue that the concentration of media ownership gives the owners considerable power including the ability to manipulate opinions. The growth of new media raises further concerns about the importance of ownership and control of the media.

Other sociologists argue that to remain profitable, the media have to produce what their audiences want. They also argue that the media carry a wider range of opinions than Marxists recognise.

Applying material from **Item N** and your knowledge, evaluate Marxist views of the relationship between ownership and control of the media.

[20 marks]

Topic B4 Stratification and Differentiation

2	2
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Outline and explain **two** ways in which occupation may affect life chances.

[10 marks]

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

Item O

Members of higher social classes have resources that give them more opportunities than those with fewer resources. Members of higher social classes also have the ability to manipulate situations so that they and their families do not lose their advantage.

Factors such as these may help members of higher social classes avoid downward social mobility.

Applying material from **Item O**, analyse **two** factors that may help members of higher social classes avoid downward social mobility.

[10 marks]

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

Item P

Some sociologists argue that in this period of rapid change, age is an increasingly important dimension of inequality. For example, there are generation gaps in economic opportunities and in values and attitudes. There is also ageism, which affects both young and old people.

However, many sociologists still see social class, gender and ethnicity as the most important dimensions of inequality.

Applying material from **Item P** and your knowledge, evaluate the view that age is an increasingly important dimension of inequality.

[20 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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