



INTERNATIONAL A LEVEL

SOCIOLOGY

SCL2

Paper 2 Exploring Sociology

Mark scheme

Additional specimen

Version: 1.0 Final

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Section A

Socialisation and Social Control

Question	Answer	Total marks
01	Define what is meant by a “stereotype”. 2 marks: Accurate and precise definition of a stereotype, including a clear characteristic e.g. a fixed or oversimplified idea about a group of people that assumes all members are the same. 1 mark: Partial or underdeveloped definition, showing some understanding but lacking clarity or detail e.g. a general idea about a group of people. 0 marks: No relevant points. Note: this indicative content is not exhaustive. Other creditworthy responses should be awarded marks as appropriate.	2 AO1 = 2

Question	Answer	Total marks
02	Outline one way in which the media may act as an agency of socialisation. 2 marks: Clear and accurate outline of a valid way, including a key detail. 1 mark: Partial or underdeveloped outline, showing some understanding but lacking clarity of detail. 0 marks: No relevant points. Possible answers include: • promotion of norms and values (1 mark); the media shows what is considered acceptable behaviour through repeated messages and representations (+1 mark) • gender role socialisation (1 mark); the media reinforces ideas about masculinity and femininity through stereotypes in films, TV and advertising (+1 mark) • role models and celebrities (1 mark); individuals may imitate behaviours, lifestyles or attitudes of people they see in the media (+1 mark) • consumer socialisation (1 mark); advertising encourages people to adopt certain lifestyles, values and patterns of consumption (+1 mark)	2 AO1 = 2

	• representation of social groups (1 mark); the media shapes attitudes by portraying certain groups in particular ways, influencing beliefs and expectations (+1 mark) • normalisation of behaviour (1 mark); repeated exposure to certain behaviours (e.g. violence or relationships) can make them seem typical or acceptable (+1 mark). Note: this indicative content is not exhaustive. Other creditworthy responses should be awarded marks as appropriate.	
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Question	Answer	Total marks
03	Identify and briefly explain two aspects of identity. 1 mark for each of two aspects of identity identified. +1 mark for each aspect of identity briefly explained. Possible answers include: • gender identity (1 mark); how individuals see themselves in terms of gender. (+ 1 mark) • ethnic identity (1 mark); a sense of belonging to a particular ethnic or cultural group (+ 1 mark) • social class identity (1 mark); how social class influences a person's sense of who they are (+ 1 mark) • age identity (1 mark); how age or life stage shapes behaviour, attitudes and self-image (+ 1 mark) • religious identity (1 mark); identity shaped by religious beliefs, practices and values (+ 1 mark) • national identity (1 mark); feeling of belonging to a particular nation or country (+ 1 mark). 0 marks: No relevant points Note: this indicative content is not exhaustive. Other creditworthy responses should be awarded marks as appropriate.	4 AO1 = 2 AO3 = 2

Question	Answer	Total marks
04	Identify and briefly explain two ways social harms may affect people's lives. 1 mark for each of two ways identified. +1 mark for each way that is briefly explained. Possible answers include: • economic harm (1 mark); lack of income or job insecurity may lead to poverty, stress and reduced quality of life (+1 mark) • physical harm (1 mark); injury or illness caused by unsafe working conditions or violence (+1 mark) • emotional or psychological harm (1 mark); experiences such as bullying or abuse can damage mental health and wellbeing (+1 mark) • environmental harm (1 mark); pollution or unsafe living environments can negatively affect health (+1 mark) • social harm linked to inequality (1 mark); unequal access to education or healthcare can limit life chances (+1 mark). 0 marks: No relevant points. Note: this indicative content is not exhaustive. Other creditworthy responses should be awarded marks as appropriate.	4 AO1 = 2 AO3 = 2

Question	Answer			Total marks
05	Explain how crime and deviance may be socially constructed.			8 AO1 = 4 AO3 = 4
	Level	Marks	Level descriptors	
	4	7 – 8	Comprehensive and detailed knowledge of the issue in the question, showing clear understanding of key concepts. (AO1) Well-developed analysis which is supported and directed to the issue in the question. (AO3)	
	3	5 – 6	Reasonable knowledge of the issue in the question, showing some understanding of key concepts but lacking clarity of detail or depth in places. (AO1) Relevant analysis, but not fully developed or lacking depth in places. (AO3)	
	2	3 – 4	Some knowledge of the issue in the question, showing limited depth. May state or identify key concepts with little development. (AO1) Some attempt at analysis, but it may be vague or generalised. (AO3)	
	1	1 – 2	Limited knowledge, with minimal reference to the issue in the question or understanding of key concepts. (AO1) Little or no analysis. (AO3)	
		0	No relevant knowledge, understanding or analysis.	
	Possible answers include: • definitions of crime and deviance vary between societies and cultures; e.g. cannabis use may be criminalised in some countries but legal in others • definitions of crime and deviance change over time; e.g. behaviours once criminalised may later become legal, or vice versa • some acts may be seen differently depending on the context or situation; e.g. killing in wartime may be viewed differently from killing in peacetime • ideas of deviance may depend on social roles and expectations; e.g. behaviour considered acceptable for young people may be seen as deviant for older adults • Interactionist views: deviance is socially constructed through labelling and societal reactions. • Marxist views: definitions of crime and deviance may reflect ruling-class interests; e.g. laws protecting private property • Feminist views: definitions of crime and deviance may reflect patriarchal values; e.g. some forms of harassment or inequality may not always be formally recognised as crime • crime and deviance are not fixed or universal but relative and shaped by social context. Note: this indicative content is not exhaustive. Other creditworthy responses should be awarded marks as appropriate			

Question	Answer		Total marks	
06	Evaluate sociological explanations of the role of social control in society.		20 AO1 = 6 AO2 = 7 AO3 = 7	
	In your answer, use examples from your society or any society you know about.			
	Level	Marks		Level descriptors
	4	16 - 20		Comprehensive and detailed knowledge and understanding of sociological theories, studies, concepts and/or perspectives (AO1) Well-developed application and interpretation of societal examples. Clear and consistent links are made to the question and supported. (AO2) Critical and sustained evaluation with strong analysis of perspectives and effective comparison of arguments, leading to well-reasoned and justified judgements. (AO3)
	3	11 - 15		Reasonable knowledge and understanding of sociological theories, studies concepts and/or perspectives, covering most key ideas in good depth (AO1) Relevant application and interpretation with good use of societal examples, though some points may lack depth, precision or direct links to the question. (AO2) Developed evaluation and analysis, considering multiple viewpoints. Evaluation may be less developed in places, leading to judgements that may show imbalance. (AO3)
	2	6 - 10		Some knowledge and understanding of sociological theories, studies concepts and/or perspectives, showing some depth.(AO1) Some relevant application and interpretation, with some use of societal examples to support points which may be brief or only partially developed. (AO2) Evaluation and analysis are attempted but lacks depth, balance, or a strong argument. (AO3)
1	1 - 5	Limited knowledge and understanding of sociological theories, studies concepts and/or perspectives. (AO1) Limited application and interpretation. Little to no use of relevant societal examples to support points which may be vague or generalised. (AO2) Little to no evaluation and/or analysis. Mostly descriptive, with little critical assessment or exploration of alternative perspectives. (AO3)		
0	0	No relevant knowledge, understanding or analysis.		

	Possible answers include: AO1: Sociological explanations of social control Functionalism • social control maintains social order through value consensus and social integration • use of formal and informal sanctions to regulate behaviour Marxism • social control serves the interests of the ruling class • law and punishment protect private property • repressive and ideological state apparatuses • selective enforcement of laws Feminism • social control of women through norms, expectations and regulation of behaviour • patriarchal power structures Interactionism • informal social control at the micro level through everyday interaction • labelling and the self-fulfilling prophecy • negotiated order AO2: Application • examples such as: ◦ laws and policing (formal control) ◦ family and education (informal control) ◦ media influence and norms ◦ gender expectations and regulation of behaviour ◦ labelling in schools or criminal justice system AO3: Evaluation of explanations • functionalist critique: assumes value consensus and may ignore conflict and inequality • Marxist critique of functionalism: social control may benefit powerful groups rather than society as a whole • feminist critique: highlights how social control maintains patriarchy, but may overgeneralise women's experiences • interactionist strengths: shows how social control operates in everyday life and is negotiated • interactionist limitations: may ignore wider structural factors such as class and power • postmodern critique: social control is less central in fragmented, diverse societies with greater individual choice • determinism vs agency: some perspectives overemphasise structure, while others highlight individual freedom Note: this indicative content is not exhaustive. Other creditworthy responses should be awarded marks as appropriate.	
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Section B

Research Methods and theory

Question	Marking guidance			Total marks
7	Evaluate sociological perspectives on the relationship between structure and agency.			20
	Level	Marks	Marking criteria	AO1 = 6 AO2 = 7 AO3 = 7
	4	16 – 20	Comprehensive and detailed knowledge and understanding of sociological methods, studies, concepts and/or perspectives (AO1). Well-developed application and interpretation of concepts and examples. Clear and consistent links are made to the question and supported (AO2). Critical and sustained evaluation with strong analysis of perspectives and effective comparison of arguments, leading to well-reasoned and justified judgements (AO3).	
	3	11 – 15	Reasonable knowledge and understanding of sociological methods, studies, concepts and/or perspectives, covering most key ideas in good depth (AO1). Relevant application and interpretation with good use of examples, though some points may lack depth, precision or direct links to the question (AO2). Developed evaluation and analysis, considering multiple viewpoints. Evaluation may be less developed in places, leading to judgements that may show imbalance (AO3).	
	2	6 – 10	Some knowledge and understanding of sociological methods, studies, concepts and/or perspectives, showing some depth (AO1). Some relevant application and interpretation, with some use of examples to support points which may be brief or only partially developed (AO2). Evaluation and analysis are attempted but lacks depth, balance, or a strong argument. Tendency to juxtapose limitations and strengths of the method (AO3).	
	1	1 – 5	Limited knowledge and understanding of sociological methods, studies, concepts and/or perspectives (AO1). Limited application and interpretation. Little to no use of relevant examples to support points which may be vague or generalised (AO2). Little to no evaluation and/or analysis. Mostly descriptive, with little critical assessment or exploration of alternative perspectives (AO3).	

0	0	Nothing worthy of credit	
Possible answers include: AO1: Sociological perspectives on structure and agency Functionalism • individuals are shaped by social structures through socialisation • value consensus guides behaviour • limited emphasis on individual agency Marxism • economic structure determines behaviour • social class position constrains agency • false consciousness limits awareness and action Feminism • patriarchy acts as a structural constraint • women's agency is limited within patriarchal structures • differences between feminist perspectives (e.g. liberal vs radical) Interactionism • emphasis on individual agency • meanings are created through interaction • individuals actively shape social reality Structuration theory – Anthony Giddens • structure and agency are interlinked • structures both enable and constrain action Postmodernism • increased choice and reflexivity • decline of traditional structures AO2: Application • examples such as: ○ education shaping behaviour vs student resistance ○ social class affecting life chances ○ gender roles and expectations ○ identity formation in contemporary society ○ individual choice in lifestyle or consumption AO3: Evaluation of perspectives • functionalist and Marxist limitations: may be overly deterministic, underestimating individual agency • interactionist critique: highlights agency but may ignore wider structural constraints such as class and power • radical feminist evaluation: shows importance of structure (patriarchy) but may overlook variation between women • postmodern critique: suggests greater individual choice, challenging structural explanations as meta-narratives • structuration theory strength: offers a balance between structure and agency • structuration theory limitation: may be abstract and difficult to apply empirically • determinism vs agency debate: key issue across perspectives, with no single perspective fully resolving it			

	Note: This indicative content is not exhaustive. Other creditworthy responses should be awarded marks as appropriate.	
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