



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

A Level Sociology

H580/03 Debates in contemporary society

Tuesday 20 June 2017 – Afternoon

Time allowed: 2 hours 15 minutes



You must have:

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet
(OCR12 sent with general stationery)

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.
- Do **not** write in the barcodes.

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.

SECTION A

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

Source A

The concept of globalisation describes how people throughout the world have become increasingly connected over time and place. While this process can be traced back nearly two million years, the creation of digital communication technology, particularly the internet, has speeded up this process. However, because 'globalisation' involves social, economic and political changes which are not experienced by all societies in the same way, sociologists have found it difficult to agree on a definition of globalisation. Furthermore, while the study of how human beings create their identity has fascinated sociologists for many years, i.e. how we see ourselves in relation to others, recently their attention has been drawn to the impact of new global forms of communication on identity.

Source B

Some sociologists have focused on the positive impact of developments in global digital communication. For example, through social media sites, individuals can create and manage their identities and sense of self on a daily basis. Also there are opportunities to communicate with many more people and develop stronger relationships than in the past. However other sociologists are more pessimistic, claiming that sites such as Facebook lead to identities becoming fragmented. It can be difficult to remove old posts on social media which can damage an individual's reputation; this alongside other issues can cause tension and conflict between individuals.

- 1* With reference to the Source(s), explain why 'globalisation' is a difficult concept to define. **[9]**
- 2 With reference to the Source(s), to what extent have developments in digital forms of communication had a negative impact on identity? **[10]**
- 3 Evaluate the view that global advances in digital forms of communication have had a positive impact on relationships. **[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 can crime and deviance be described as 'relative'? [10]
- 5* To what extent are left wing social policies an effective way of reducing crime in society? [20]
- 6* Assess sociological explanations for gender differences in patterns of crime. [40]

OPTION 2**Education**

- 7* In what ways do material factors contribute to social class inequality in education? [10]
- 8* To what extent are New Right views on the relationship between education and work relevant in contemporary society? [20]
- 9* Assess out-of-school explanations of ethnic differences in educational achievement. [40]

OPTION 3**Religion, belief and faith**

- 10* In what ways is religiosity influenced by ethnicity? [10]
- 11* To what extent does data on religious practice suggest that secularisation is occurring? [20]
- 12* Assess Weberian views of the relationship between religion and social and economic change. [40]

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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