



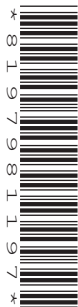
Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Wednesday 21 October 2020 – Morning

A Level Sociology

H580/03 Debates in contemporary society

Time allowed: 2 hours 15 minutes



You must have:

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Write your answer to each question in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Fill in the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.
- Answer **all** the questions in Section A.
- Choose **one** option in Section B and answer **all** the questions for that option.

INFORMATION

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

ADVICE

- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

SECTION A

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

Source A

Recent research suggests that advances in digital forms of communication have transformed the lives of individuals in the UK and across the world. For example, when natural disasters such as tsunamis, volcanic eruptions and extreme flooding occur, social media enables a rapid response. For example, following the 2012 hurricane in Canada, Facebook launched an emergency check-in App called 'Safety Check'. At the click of a button users can let friends and family know they are safe in the event of a natural disaster. Despite initial reservations, official organisations now use social media to help tackle disasters. In 2018, the USA National Weather Service asked people to use Facebook and Twitter to spread important safety messages and posts about tsunamis. Social media has also been effective in mobilising support for protests. Digital forms of communication such as social media have also helped strengthen relationships as time and location no longer present a barrier to maintaining contact across the world.

Source B

Through advances in digital forms of communication people can now connect with others by joining online communities. Communicating in these virtual communities, where there are no geographical boundaries, is quick and easy. For example, support may be generated very quickly in response to major events. According to postmodern writers, people can share interests and also create and transform their identities in the virtual community, regardless of gender, ethnicity, social class, age or disability. However, while some postmodern writers have embraced the development of a virtual world, other sociologists have been more cautious worrying about issues such as who controls the virtual communities and how are they regulated? Also, concerns are often raised about the effects of virtual communities on both individual's identities and their relationships with those in their offline world such as friends, family and peers.

- 1*** With reference to both sources and your wider sociological knowledge, explain the positive impact of global developments in digital communication in responding to major events. **[9]**
- 2** With reference to the source(s) and your wider sociological knowledge, evaluate the view that virtual communities have a positive impact on people's identity. **[10]**
- 3** Evaluate the sociological view that all digital forms of communication have a negative impact on social 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 is green crime a growing issue? [10]
- 5* Assess right realist explanations of crime and deviance. [20]
- 6* Evaluate sociological explanations of the over-representation of males in crime statistics. [40]

OPTION 2**Education**

- 7* In what ways are there gender differences in patterns of educational attainment? [10]
- 8* Assess the view that teacher labelling is the main cause of working-class pupils' underachievement in school. [20]
- 9* Evaluate functionalist explanations of the relationship between education and work. [40]

OPTION 3**Religion, belief and faith**

- 10* In what ways is the significance of religion different between societies? [10]
- 11* Assess feminist views of the role of religion in society. [20]
- 12* Evaluate the views of anti-secularisation theorists. [40]

END OF QUESTION PAPER



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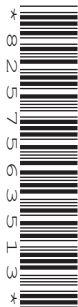
Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Wednesday 20 October 2021 – Morning

A Level Sociology

H580/03 Debates in contemporary society

Time allowed: 2 hours 15 minutes



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SECTION A

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

Source A

Developments in digital forms of communication have helped increase access to people and opportunities across the world. This is particularly evident in social media networking. Those who join work-based social networks can increase their social capital and potentially their material rewards. For example, work-based social networks such as LinkedIn have helped people access worldwide job opportunities and/or promotion opportunities. Global work-based networking sites offer support for those seeking work and employment opportunities. Some argue social media networking has helped break down the barriers of age, disability, gender and ethnicity.

Source B

Until recently most people interacted face-to-face, through letters and landline telephones; however, this form of interaction was limited and global relationships were difficult to develop and maintain. Today families may use social media networking to maintain their relationships across the world. Also, more than half the UK population over the age of 18 use social media networks such as Facebook and Instagram to connect and communicate with others. However, some sociologists are concerned that digital communication provides a new form of surveillance. Private companies can gather information on individuals' use of social media and their consumer habits without their knowledge and consent. This has led some sociologists to claim that digital communication is a new form of social control.

- 1* With reference to the Source(s) and your wider sociological knowledge, explain the impact of developments in digital communication on people's social capital in employment. **[9]**
- 2 With reference to the Source(s) and your wider sociological knowledge, evaluate the view that social media has a positive role in people's social lives. **[10]**
- 3 Evaluate the sociological view that the impact of advances in digital forms of communication on young people has been negative. **[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 victim surveys a useful measurement of crime? [10]
- 5* Assess the view that the main influence on female patterns of crime is traditional gender socialisation. [20]
- 6* Evaluate the view that there is racism and discrimination within the criminal justice system. [40]

OPTION 2**Education**

- 7* In what ways does teacher labelling influence the educational achievement of children from different social classes? [10]
- 8* Assess the view that policies since 1988 designed to benefit girls in education have been successful. [20]
- 9* Evaluate the view that cultural factors are the main influence on the educational achievement of different ethnic groups. [40]

OPTION 3**Religion, belief and faith**

- 10* In what ways can the concept religious belief have different meanings? [10]
- 11* Assess the view that patterns of religiosity among minority ethnic communities reflect strong religious beliefs. [20]
- 12* Evaluate functionalist explanations of the role of religion in society. [40]

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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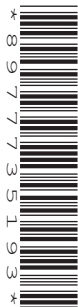
Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Monday 13 June 2022 – Morning

A Level Sociology

H580/03 Debates in contemporary society

Time allowed: 2 hours 15 minutes



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SECTION A

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

Source A

In 1926 Nicolas Tesla was excited by the possibilities of communication technology to communicate with one another 'instantly, irrespective of distance' as though we were 'face-to-face', despite distances of thousands of miles. All through an instrument carried in 'a pocket'. Today young people can carry a smart phone in their pocket which enables them to interact, create and share ideas with other young people both locally and across the world.

Source B

Connection with others across the world can occur so quickly, some believe we now live in a virtual unified 'global village'; for example, through hashtags, people can discuss global issues such as climate change. However, in the global village there is less privacy as people volunteer personal information to sites such as Facebook and Instagram. Also, in the global village the differences between cultures become less obvious.

- 1* With reference to Source A and your wider sociological knowledge, explain how the development of social media has created opportunities that empower young people. **[9]**
- 2 With reference to Source B and your wider sociological knowledge, evaluate the view that living in a 'global village' is a negative development for people worldwide. **[10]**
- 3 Evaluate the sociological view that older people have benefitted from advances in digital forms of communication. **[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 self-report studies a useful measurement of crime? [10]
- 5* Assess the view that traditional socialisation is the main influence on patterns of offending amongst males. [20]
- 6* Evaluate the view that the law discriminates against the working class. [40]

OPTION 2**Education**

- 7* In what ways does teacher labelling influence the achievement of different ethnic groups in education? [10]
- 8* Assess social democratic views of education. [20]
- 9* Evaluate the view that the home is the main influence on the educational achievement of children from different social classes. [40]

OPTION 3**Religion, belief and faith**

- 10* In what ways is the concept of religiosity useful in studying the sociology of religion? [10]
- 11* Assess the view that older generations are more religious than younger people in society. [20]
- 12* Evaluate postmodern views of religion in society. [40]

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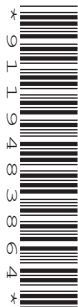
Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Wednesday 14 June 2023 – Afternoon

A Level Sociology

H580/03 Debates in contemporary society

Time allowed: 2 hours 15 minutes



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SECTION A

Read the source material and answer **all** the questions in this section.

Source A

Research into inequalities and digital forms of communication offers two very different views. One view suggests that digital forms of communication offer a solution to inequalities, as disadvantaged groups have greater access to resources through the internet. The second view suggests that digital forms of communication have created greater inequalities, as a digital class divide has emerged. This suggests that those who are already privileged have both the access and skills to take advantage of educational and networking opportunities, whilst the lower social classes are excluded from these opportunities.

Source B

Sociologists often suggest that disadvantaged groups do not benefit from digital forms of communication as they lack the economic resources to pay for internet access and digital devices. Yet across the world there has been a growth in social protest movements, where the disadvantaged have successfully used digital forms of communication. Disadvantaged groups have been able to spread information to promote their cause, mobilise people and organise protests. However, whether digital forms of communication have the power to change the world is questionable, as privileged groups control and manipulate them.

- 1* With reference to the source(s) and your wider sociological knowledge, explain how developments in digital forms of communication have created a digital class divide. [9]

- 2 With reference to the source(s) and your wider sociological knowledge, evaluate the view that developments in digital forms of communication have benefitted the social protest movements of the disadvantaged. [10]

- 3 Evaluate the feminist view that the digital revolution has created new opportunities to oppress women. [16]

SECTION B

Choose **one** option from this section. Answer **all** the questions for that option.

OPTION 1**Crime and deviance**

- 4* In what ways do left-wing policies attempt to reduce crime? [10]
- 5* Assess the view that the police-recorded crime figures are accurate. [20]
- 6* Evaluate the view that the main cause of crime is poor socialisation. [40]

OPTION 2**Education**

- 7* In what ways are females denied the same opportunities as males in global education? [10]
- 8* Assess the view that in-school factors are the main cause of educational underachievement in some ethnic groups. [20]
- 9* Evaluate the view that educational policies since 1988 have benefitted the working class. [40]

OPTION 3**Religion, belief and faith**

- 10* In what ways is religious participation influenced by gender? [10]
- 11* Assess the view that religious belief is still widespread in contemporary society. [20]
- 12* Evaluate the view that religion promotes social change. [40]

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