



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

A Level Sociology

H580/03 Debates in contemporary society

Friday 15 June 2018 – 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 speed of advances in digital technology on a global scale has led to the idea that a 'digital revolution' is occurring. Advances have occurred whereby existing forms of media such as newspapers can now be accessed online. Also new platforms have been created such as mobile phones which help individuals communicate more easily across the world. The creation of the internet is often seen as the most significant development. However, concerns have been raised that the content and ideas promoted on the internet are dominated by English-speaking, western culture. A process of cultural homogenisation is thought to be occurring as globalisation leads to a dominant culture influenced by western ideas. During this process other cultures become threatened by western ideas and practices; for example capitalist values. Also the digital revolution has failed to challenge patriarchal ideology which takes for granted male domination of major institutions in society.

Source B

There is evidence that new forms of digital communication are being used to challenge cultural homogenisation. For example, through a process known as cultural defence, some people are using digital forms of communication to promote their own language and culture. Also, some organisations use the internet to help empower non-westernised peoples through raising awareness and helping protect their way of life. Another example that there are challenges to cultural homogenisation is shown through the need for global digital media companies to take into account local practices and link with local people to ensure their companies grow and remain profitable.

- 1* With reference to the Source(s), explain how developments in digital communication technology might be described as a 'digital revolution'. **[9]**
- 2 With reference to the Source(s), to what extent have developments in digital forms of communication had a positive effect on non-western societies? **[10]**
- 3 Evaluate the view that global advances in digital forms of communication have led to an increase in gender inequality. **[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 has crime become a global concern? [10]
- 5* To what extent do official crime statistics accurately reflect patterns of crime amongst different ethnic groups in society? [20]
- 6* Assess subcultural explanations of crime and deviance. [40]

OPTION 2**Education**

- 7* In what ways are there differences in educational provision across the world? [10]
- 8* To what extent can in-school explanations account for social class differences in educational achievement? [20]
- 9* Assess the view that educational policies since 1988 have increased diversity and choice. [40]

OPTION 3**Religion, belief and faith**

- 10* In what ways is religiosity influenced by age? [10]
- 11* To what extent does religion have a positive role in meeting society's needs? [20]
- 12* Assess sociological explanations of the relationship between gender and religion, belief and faith. [40]

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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