

AM 30/I.12m

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD  
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, MSIDA

MATRICULATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION  
ADVANCED LEVEL  
MAY 2012

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<b>SUBJECT:</b>	SOCIOLOGY
<b>PAPER NUMBER:</b>	I
<b>DATE:</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> April 2012
<b>TIME:</b>	4.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

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**ANSWER ANY THREE QUESTIONS: Questions carry equal marks.**

1. Bourdieu attempts to overcome the structure-agency opposition in sociological theory through the concept of the habitus. Discuss.
2. Even though humans see themselves as exercising free will and choice, their behaviours are often socially patterned. Discuss with reference to Durkheim's analysis of suicide.
3. For Marx, modern capitalist societies will become radically reorganised in the coming future. Discuss.
4. Contrary to what is generally assumed, symbolic interactionism does acknowledge the existence of social structures. Discuss.
5. In a media-dominated age, societies have witnessed 'the dissolution of life into TV'. Discuss with reference to Baudrillard's theory.

AM 30/II.12m

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<b>SUBJECT:</b>	SOCIOLOGY
<b>PAPER NUMBER:</b>	II
<b>DATE:</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2012
<b>TIME:</b>	9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon

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**ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS: TWO from Part I and ONE from Part II.**

**Questions carry equal marks.**

**PART I: METHODOLOGY**

1. One famous principle in sociology is ‘Study social facts as *things!*’. Discuss.
2. Compare and contrast quantitative and qualitative research designs.
3. There are numerous ways of doing research from a feminist perspective. Elaborate.

**PART II: SUBSTANTIVE AREAS**

**SOCIAL CHANGE & DEVELOPMENT  
SOCIAL STRATIFICATION & INEQUALITY**

4. Inequalities of power are based on shared values. Discuss.
5. Runciman’s class theory includes both Marxist and Weberian concepts. Discuss.
6. The principles of fast-food restaurant have come to dominate how people experience everyday life. Discuss.

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<b>SUBJECT:</b>	SOCIOLOGY
<b>PAPER NUMBER:</b>	III
<b>DATE:</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> May 2012
<b>TIME:</b>	4.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

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**ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS: TWO from Part I and ONE from Part II.**

**Questions carry equal marks.**

**PART I: FAMILY POVERTY & SOCIAL EXCLUSION**

1. The idea that the extended family was typical of pre-industrial Britain is false. Discuss.
2. The isolated nuclear family prevents social conflict. Discuss.
3. Although the idea of social exclusion is useful, this does not mean that it can be used to replace the term poverty. Discuss.

**PART II: EDUCATION  
RELIGION**

4. Religious beliefs provide guidelines for human action and standards against which people's conduct can be evaluated. Discuss.
5. Even when IQ is held constant, there are significant differences in educational attainment between members of different social groups. Discuss.
6. The marketisation of education can be damaging in terms of the values which it produces. Discuss.