

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

MATRICULATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION
INTERMEDIATE LEVEL
MAY 2012

SUBJECT: SOCIOLOGY
DATE: 7th May 2012
TIME: 4.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

ANSWER 4 (FOUR) QUESTIONS IN ALL. Each question carries 25 marks.

Section A: Answer ONE Question from this Section

1. Symbolic interactionism provides little indication about the origins of the meanings to which it attaches so much importance. Discuss.
2. Common values and identities provide a basis for unity and cooperation. Discuss.
3. Members of the two main social classes are largely unaware of the true nature of their situation. Discuss.

Section B: Answer ONE Question from this Section

4. There is more than one strategy for sociologists to obtain representative samples of the population they wish to study. Discuss.
5. Questionnaires may be administered in a number of ways. Elaborate.
6. For many sociologists, statistical data does not provide a valid insight on human behaviour. Discuss.

Section C: Answer TWO questions from this section, ONE from Part 1 and ONE from Part 2

Part 1

7. Weber's arguments that religious beliefs can be a major influence on economic behaviour received both criticism and support. Elaborate.
8. Parsons' views on the family have been criticised as overly optimistic and that they have little relationship to reality. Discuss.
9. As an economic unit, the nuclear family is a valuable stabilising force in capitalist society. Discuss with reference to Marxist feminism.

Part 2:

10. Social exclusion is the failure of our society to enable all groups and individuals to realise their full potential. Discuss.
11. Education helps students to become aware that they are part of something larger than themselves. Discuss.
12. Education creates the myth that those at the top deserve their power and privilege. Discuss.