

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

MATRICULATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION
INTERMEDIATE LEVEL
SEPTEMBER 2012

SUBJECT: SOCIOLOGY
DATE: 7th September 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. Goffman's examination of interaction patterns within mental institutions confirms that there is a wider context that goes beyond face-to-face symbolic interaction. Elaborate.
2. Although Durkheim saw the possibility of conflict within industrial society, he believed that it could be kept in check. Discuss.
3. Weber's sociology demonstrates that social action involving a large number of people may lead to large-scale social changes. Discuss.

Section B: Answer ONE Question from this Section

4. One key debate in sociology is whether the discipline is objective and value-free. Discuss.
5. Qualitative research assumes social reality to be constructed and reconstructed by actors in the course of social action. Discuss.
6. Participant observation has many practical disadvantages. Elaborate.

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

Part 1:

7. Female-headed families have been considered as an exception to Murdock's claim that the nuclear family is a universal social group. Discuss.
8. Many members of society express their religious beliefs through organisations. Elaborate on three different types of religious organisations.
9. The integration of society is strengthened through participation in religious rituals. Discuss.

Part 2:

10. A great deal of poverty can be attributed to inadequate benefits. Discuss.
11. Poverty is a design for living that is transmitted from one generation to the next. Discuss.
12. Education may have unintended consequences for students that may not be completely beneficial for capitalism. Discuss.