

**MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, MSIDA**  
**MATRICULATION EXAMINATION**  
**INTERMEDIATE LEVEL**  
**SEPTEMBER 2016**

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<b>SUBJECT:</b>	SOCIOLOGY
<b>DATE:</b>	31st August 2016
<b>TIME:</b>	4:00 p.m. to 7:05 p.m.

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**Section A: Answer ONE Question from this Section.**

1. Discuss the concept of pattern variables A and B, as put forward by Parsons in his theory of social change.
2. In what ways does Robert Merton refine earlier functionalist theory?
3. Marx said that the history of society is the history of class struggle. Discuss this statement and explain why communism is seen by Marx as contributing to 'the end of history'.

**Section B: Answer ONE Question from this Section.**

4. In what ways are triangulation/mixed methods useful in sociological research?
5. Discuss the main differences between primary and secondary sources in sociological research, and describe the ways they are used.
6. Positivist research aims to be objective and value free. Discuss.

**Section C: Answer TWO Questions from this Section.**

7. According to Durkheim, religion serves three main functions. Explain the nature of these functions and discuss their relevance in everyday life.
8. The 'hidden curriculum' produces passive and docile workers. Discuss.
9. Free education offers equality of opportunity to all, irrespective of their social status. Discuss.
10. Feminists consider the traditional nuclear family to be a patriarchal institution. Discuss, using at least two feminist perspectives.