

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS

Wednesday 10 June 2020 – Afternoon

A Level Sociology

H580/03 Debates in contemporary society

**Time allowed: 2 hours 15 minutes
plus your additional time allowance**

**YOU MUST HAVE:
the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet**

READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF



INSTRUCTIONS

Use black ink.

Write your answer to each question in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.

Fill in the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.

Answer ALL the questions in Section A.

Choose ONE option in Section B and answer ALL the questions for that option.

INFORMATION

The total mark for this paper is 105.

The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].

Quality of extended response will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).

ADVICE

Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

BLANK PAGE

SECTION A

Read the source material and answer ALL the questions in Section A.

SOURCE A

Recent research suggests that advances in digital forms of communication have transformed the lives of individuals in the UK and across the world. For example, when natural disasters such as tsunamis, volcanic eruptions and extreme flooding occur, social media enables a rapid response. For example, following the 2012 hurricane in Canada, Facebook launched an emergency check-in App called 'Safety Check'. At the click of a button users can let friends and family know they are safe in the event of a natural disaster. Despite initial reservations, official organisations now use social media to help tackle disasters. In 2018, the USA National Weather Service asked people to use Facebook and Twitter to spread important safety messages and posts about tsunamis. Social media has also been effective in mobilising support for protests. Digital forms of communication such as social media have also helped strengthen relationships as time and location no longer present a barrier to maintaining contact across the world.

SOURCE B

Through advances in digital forms of communication people can now connect with others by joining online communities. Communicating in these virtual communities, where there are no geographical boundaries, is quick and easy. For example, support may be generated very quickly in response to major events. According to postmodern writers, people can share interests and also create and transform their identities in the virtual community, regardless of gender, ethnicity, social class, age or disability. However, while some postmodern writers have embraced the development of a virtual world, other sociologists have been more cautious worrying about issues such as who controls the virtual communities and how are they regulated? Also, concerns are often raised about the effects of virtual communities on both individual's identities and their relationships with those in their offline world such as friends, family and peers.

- 1* With reference to both sources and your wider sociological knowledge, explain the positive impact of global developments in digital communication in responding to major events. [9]**
- 2 With reference to the source(s) and your wider sociological knowledge, evaluate the view that virtual communities have a positive impact on people's identity. [10]**
- 3 Evaluate the sociological view that all digital forms of communication have a negative impact on social relationships. [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 is green crime a growing issue? [10]**
- 5* Assess right realist explanations of crime and deviance. [20]**
- 6* Evaluate sociological explanations of the over-representation of males in crime statistics. [40]**

OPTION 2

Education

- 7* In what ways are there gender differences in patterns of educational attainment? [10]**
- 8* Assess the view that teacher labelling is the main cause of working-class pupils' underachievement in school. [20]**
- 9* Evaluate functionalist explanations of the relationship between education and work. [40]**

OPTION 3

Religion, belief and faith

10* In what ways is the significance of religion different between societies? [10]

11* Assess feminist views of the role of religion in society. [20]

12* Evaluate the views of anti-secularisation theorists. [40]

END OF QUESTION PAPER



Copyright Information

OCR is committed to seeking permission to reproduce all third-party content that it uses in its assessment materials. OCR has attempted to identify and contact all copyright holders whose work is used in this paper. To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced in the OCR Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download from our public website (www.ocr.org.uk) after the live examination series.

If OCR has unwittingly failed to correctly acknowledge or clear any third-party content in this assessment material, OCR will be happy to correct its mistake at the earliest possible opportunity.

For queries or further information please contact The OCR Copyright Team, The Triangle Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA.

OCR is part of the Cambridge Assessment Group; Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which is itself a department of the University of Cambridge.