

**A LEVEL**

*Sample Candidate Style Answers and Commentary*

# **SOCIOLOGY**

H580

For first teaching in 2015

## **Component 1**

Version 1



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# Introduction

This resource has been a collaborative production and checked by a senior member of the A Level Sociology examining team to offer teachers an insight into how the assessment objectives are applied. Please note that this resource is provided for advice and guidance only and does not in any way constitute an indication of grade boundaries or endorsed answers. The sample assessment material for these answers and commentary can be found on the A Level Sociology web page and accessed via the following link: <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-sociology-h180-h580-from-2015/>



# Section A

**Question 1** Explain, using examples, the concept of formal social control.

[6]

## Low band – Sample answer

There are two different types of social control, formal and informal. Each type gives people guidelines of what to do, a sense of what is right and what is wrong. The education system is an agent of formal social control for example, if you missed lessons you would be punished and if you kept doing this you may even be excluded from school or your parents could receive a fine or a prison sentence. If you cheated in an exam you would be disqualified.

A01 – 1 out of 2 marks    AO2 – 2 out of 4 marks.

Total = 3 out of 6 marks

## Commentary

Only one mark for definition as although the candidate defines social control, they don't define 'formal' social control. At AO2 only one example is given and it's implicitly relevant as it is not explicitly linked to the idea of 'formal' control.

## How the answer could be improved

The candidate could develop the explanation of formal social control. The only example which is given is linked to the education system; development of why these systems are put in place could be evidence or an alternative agent of formal social control.

## High band – Sample answer

Formal social control is conducted by a range of formal agencies from the government, to the police to the army. The rules made by these institutions are clearly written down and systems of sanctions apply if they are broken. The legislation is an example of formal social control. It is in the legislation you will find the rules of our society which are punishable by law if broken. The police are also an agency of formal social control - they police the country and have the power to arrest people for wrong doing. The penal system is also an agency of formal social control and can actually incarcerate people who are punished and sanctioned in this way.

A01 – 2 out of 2 marks    AO2 – 4 out of 4 marks

Total = 6 out of 6 marks

## Commentary

This answer shows excellent ability to explain formal social control and gives three clear examples of agencies of formal social control.

**Question 2** Using Sources A and B and your wider sociological knowledge, explain the concept of global culture.

[12]

### Low band – Sample answer

Global culture has become really popular. This is because global ideas and products are spreading across the globe mainly from America, like McDonalds. The spread of the internet means we can connect with each other across the world more easily and more ideas about global culture and what it is. The source says it's the media. You can go to any country in the world and buy a McDonalds which proves we have a global culture. The sociological theory we can link with global culture is postmodernism because it says we choose what we want so if we want a global culture we can have one and we can share the same way of life.

A01 – 3 out of 4 marks    A02 – 5 out of 8 marks

Total = 8 out of 12 marks

## Commentary

This candidate does have some knowledge of global culture, however some of this is under developed such as the point made on the mass media. The candidate has drawn some knowledge from one item in the source material but not the other and it is not made explicit. The examples used are relevant and this displays a good ability to relate sociological knowledge and there is some limited wider sociological knowledge.

## How the answer could be improved

The candidate could expand on the importance of countries like America in the example given, the concept Americanisation could be used. Source B could be used in a more conceptually detailed way to explain the relevance of the mass media and interconnectedness. Source A could also be referenced.

### High band – Sample answer

The idea that the world shares a global culture is linked with the concept of globalisation, where the world is becoming interconnected, McLuhan stated that world had become like a 'global village'. There are a few powerful dominant countries like the USA who are transmitting their norms and values across the globe using the mass media to promote their ideas. Source B does state the media is key in the spread of global norms and values. For example the idea that McDonalds is promoted through the media and is now seen as a huge global brand means everybody knows what McDonalds is all across the world. This means that people might lose traditional identities as we all seem to share the same ones in this postmodern world. Source A shows a traditional man in traditional dress but he is using a mobile phone which is a modern piece of technology. It is through the spread of technology across the globe this is able to happen. For example Apple with their technology has become a multi-national and extremely successful corporation. It can be argued that a person's whole culture is becoming globalised and eventually we will become more like each other.

A01 – 4 out of 4 marks    A02 – 7 out of 8 marks

Total = 11 out of 12 marks

## Commentary

This answer shows excellent knowledge of global culture, and a sociologist's name has been given as evidence. The answer is detailed and shows a range of concepts which are associated with global culture. The source material has been used to explicitly meet the demands of the question and there is also wider sociological knowledge.

## How the answer could be improved

The point about the relevance of the mass media in the spread of global culture could be developed.

**Question 3** Outline and briefly evaluate the view that social class is a strong influence on an individual's identity.

[20]

### Low band – Sample answer

Social class is a division of a society based on social and economic status. A person's class can have a huge influence on their life and identity. Most of a person's life can be affected by social class. Sociologists like Savage argue that the class you belong to could have an effect on an individual's profession, and thus could lead to a certain standard of living. As a result class can influence the identities of an individual. However, some would argue against this and claim that in the contemporary UK class is failing and that the boundaries between people have become blurred. This is supported by contemporary evidence, such as the rise in consumer culture and that people have more choice over their identity.

Willis carried out a study about working class identity; Willis found that many children in school develop a laddish culture in school as a result of sub-culture. According to Willis, many children in school develop an 'us versus them' mentality, as well as being anti school because of this, most children socialised by the working class lad culture would go on to working class jobs. This means that working class children see being well liked by their peers as more important compared to education, and due to rebellious tendencies being seen as 'cool' by many youths of working class background, this would encourage them to become less academically adept. Meanwhile middle class children are more likely to see education as an important aspect of their lives and would be encouraged to pursue academic success, as a result of this they are more likely to have middle class jobs, thereby social class has a strong influence on an individual's identity.

In conclusion, people in the contemporary UK have an opportunity to create their own identities based on consumerism, thus eroding the idea of class division. Although this mainly applies to the middle class, due to the fact many working class suffer material deprivation, they are less likely to be able to do the same. As a result, depending of a person's social class, it could have a huge effect on their identities.

AO1 – 5 out of 8 marks    AO2 – 5 out of 8 marks    AO3 – 2 out of 4 marks

Total = 12 out of 20 marks

## Commentary

This response lacks range however there is depth in the points that are made. The points are accurate but lack focus and development in parts, especially Willis. There is a good ability to apply sociological knowledge although the use of it is not always made explicit to the question on social class and identity. There is a basic ability to evaluate and the conclusion is summative.

## How the answer could be improved

A more developed response of how social class shapes identity could be given through the exploration of more social class categories. The use of sociological theory would further develop the answer with at least one more point of evaluation.

### High band – Sample answer

Social class is a system of stratification used in the UK today. It is a tri level system which has three social classes - the upper class, the middle class and the working class. New Right commentators such as Charles Murray argue that there is a fourth class at the bottom of the social strata called the underclass; however this is still a debated topic. This means an individual is born into a social class which undoubtedly has an impact on their identity. McIntosh and Mooney have attempted to research the upper classes and they have found this difficult because the upper classes operate social closure. They do not like to let outsiders in and remain very private. However we do know that they have high levels of cultural capital and live elite lifestyles. Their children are also socialised into this elite type of identity as they are surrounded in high culture. Marxists argue the upper class aim to keep this part of their elite identity to keep control over the masses. However it is worth noting that high culture is in decline in the UK and the upper classes are losing some wealth and having to let insiders in such as "new money".

Savage argues that middle class identity can be linked to occupational status. Savage identified four main categories of job that we can find middle class people in, one of them being professionals. The professional group base their identity on high education levels and job training. Another feature of middle class identity is the nuclear family and the concept of child centeredness which the middle classes strive for. However postmodernists argue that the nuclear family is now in decline and this may not be a feature of middle class family life anymore.

The working classes used to have a really strong sense of collective identity, through the manual labour jobs they did and trade union membership of trade unions and the labour party. A huge part of working class identity was being part of extended family kinship networks and traditional gender roles. However Mac and Ghail claim there has been a crisis in masculinity with no traditional working men's jobs available anymore and thus impacting on working class identity.

The underclass have an identity based on welfare dependency according to Murray who are lazy and work shy, they pass these norms and values onto their children which creates a cultural dependency. The children of the underclass pick up and learn the identity of their parents and they are unable to change this because they have been socialised inadequately. However Marxists argue that the people at the bottom of the system do not get enough help and that's why they cannot get out of the situation they are in.

It is clear to see that social class does shape a person's identity as from a young age you socialised into your class identity; however we are living in a postmodern world. Postmodernists such as Waters argue that a person can now base their identity on the products they consume meaning social class may not be as big a factor as it used to be in shaping a person's identity. On a final note though a person must have money to consume items so social class is still important.

A01 – 7 out of 8 marks    A02 – 7 out of 8 marks    A03 – 4 out of 4 marks

Total = 18 out of 20 marks

## Commentary

This demonstrates excellent knowledge and understanding which is both accurate and detailed. Well-reasoned development is present through the use of sociologists and sociological theory. The candidate has an excellent ability to apply sociological concepts to the question. This response makes several evaluative points and has a fully developed conclusion which adds value.

## How the answer could be improved

More references to socialisation and class identity.

# Section B

## Option 1: Families and relationships

**Question 4** Outline **two** reasons for the increase in non-family households and illustrate your answer with examples .

[12]

### Low band – Sample answer

One reason that the increase of non-family households has changed is that friends are living together at university in either shared halls of residence or shared flats and housing. The reason for this is that more people are staying in education for longer. Functionalists think this is positive because it proves we are meritocratic if more people are going to university. When you go to university you live with your friends and live almost like a family, you go out together and cook together and live as a family but you are not related.

Another reason for the growth in non-family households is the increasing economic independence of women. Women can now go to work and earn good money because of the equal pay act. They do not need a man to survive and can manage on their own. Women leave university, get good jobs and then live on their own until they are ready to meet somebody. Feminists think this is good.

AO1 – 5 out of 8 marks    AO2 – 3 out of 4 marks

Total = 8 out of 12 marks

### Commentary

This answer shows good knowledge and understanding. The candidate gives two valid reasons but both are underdeveloped. Theory is explicit but superficial and not fully explained.

### How the answer could be improved

Both points need expansion of sociological theory and evidence through the use of studies.

### High band – Sample answer

Over the years there have been several changes to both family structure and households. One of the most noticeable changes to non-family household is the increased number of woman that live alone in one person households. Helen Wilkinson argues that females in the UK have experienced a 'gender quake' meaning they now have more opportunities than ever before. Since women have entered the workplace it has provided them with a greater sense of financial freedom and success. This means that women are able to make the decision to live on their own and enjoy the period of singlehood with no reliance on men for money. Feminists are in support of this as women are able to enjoy the same freedom in living arrangements as men.

Another reason for the increase in non-family households is the growth of people who live in shared accommodation with friends. The postmodern view on this is that friends have become the new family. This is a choice that many people make and has increased in particular because of the economic crisis in 2008. House prices have risen drastically and people cannot afford to buy or rent a house alone so it's very common to see 20 somethings sharing accommodation with their friends. They form very close bonds with the people they live with and eventually they value the views and advice of their friends more so than their biological families. Peers have always been an influential agent of socialisation and it would appear that as more people make the postmodern choice of living with friends, peer groups will become more influential especially in living arrangements.

AO1 – 7 out of 8 marks    AO2 – 4 out of 4 marks

Total = 11 out of 12 marks

## Commentary

This answer shows excellent knowledge and understanding and has two clear and detailed reasons. It is logically structured and the material presented is relevant. The material applied is accurate and related to the question.

## How the answer could be improved

The first point is more developed than the first, for the second point more sociological theory could be added such as the work of Beck and Beck-Gernsheim.

**Question 5** Explain and briefly evaluate the view that relationships between parents and children are changing.

[16]

### Low band – Sample answer

Childhood has become the most important time in a person's life and in the UK we are very child-centred but this wasn't always the case. A sociologist studied pictures of children before the industrial times and found that children did not have a childhood; they were seen as mini adults. This is why many sociologists argue that childhood is socially constructed.

Postman says that childhood is disappearing at a dazzling speed. In the past there was a clear distinction between childhood and adulthood but now the relationship has become blurred. Children wear the same clothes as adults, for example young girls wearing crop tops. Children and their parents use the same technology they will both have I-pads, this means children can access adult things they shouldn't be like porn. However there are parental control locks on TV and PS's so parents can prevent their children from seeing adult things proving the relationship is not blurring. The New Right think that children should be very different to adults.

In the past parents used to be the main influence on children and there was a close relationship. The parents took all the responsibility for socialising the children however nowadays this relationship is different. The media has become more important and children have more access to this than ever before. Postmodernists say we live in a media saturated society so media will be important to children as they watch a lot of TV.

There are reasons that show the relationship between parents and children are changing.

A01 – 4 out of 8 marks    A02 – 2 out of 4 marks    A03 – 2 out of 4 marks

Total = 8 out of 16 marks

## Commentary

This answer demonstrates basic knowledge and understanding, the material is not very relevant as it focused more on the how childhood has changed / is socially constructed, rather than the relationship between parents and children. Where the answer does focus on the question, it lacks sociological evidence. There is a basic ability to analyse and evaluate and evaluative statements are under developed. The conclusion is a summative statement.

## How the answer could be improved

The use of more sociological evidence would improve this answer with more sustained and developed evaluation. The answer also needs a fully supported critical conclusion, this could make use of the Postman point and the notion of childhood disappearing because children now have access to the adult world.

### High band – Sample answer

The UK has a westernised view of what childhood should be like and has spent many years socially constructing the golden age of childhood. Aries compared paintings in pre-industrial times and discovered that children did not have a childhood and were viewed as mini adults. Functionalists however believe that in the UK we have experienced a 'march of progress' and have become a more child-centred society. This has changed the relationship between parents and children because parents are ever focused on the well-being of their children and making sure they have the best and longest childhood possible. This actually gives children more power in the family as they are able to contribute to major decisions about family life such as where to go on holiday. Children have more money spent on them in order to keep up with child-centeredness, for example parents may pay for extra tuition so their children do well in education. Marxists like Marcuse however argue that this isn't child-centred it's just keeping up with the Joneses. The commercial world means children pester their parents for the latest must have gadgets but in reality this could mean children spend less time with their parents.

Sue Palmer discussed the concept of a toxic childhood. This change has occurred because of the pressure of adult life. Parents are under a great amount of pressure and stress, families go through issues such as divorce and Palmer argues that children are often used as tools or weapons in divorce which makes their childhood toxic. This is not viewed as a positive change in the relationship between parents and children. The toxic childhood also includes the issue that parents just give their children technology to occupy them instead of spending time with them thus changing the relationship which used to be close. However, this has been criticised as victim blaming.

Perhaps one of the biggest changes in the relationship between parents and children is the legal power children now have. The child support act in 1991 gives children more rights especially in family affairs where it should be the concerns of the child given the most importance. The every child matters policy also gives children rights in the home when it states that children should enjoy their childhood. These laws were not always around and children did not have as much protection from the state. There is criticism from some sociologists though as all of this state intervention has created somewhat of a nanny state where the family is policed and controlled too much. Feminists have argued that too much of the policy and legislation in place to protect children oppresses women as it still assumes they are the primary care givers.

It is clear to see that there have been changes to relationships between parents and children in the UK, the biggest factor to support this is the notion in the past that children had no legal rights or power. In the contemporary UK there is so much emphasis now on protecting children.

A01 – 8 out of 8 marks    A02 – 4 out of 4 marks    A03 - 4 out of 4 marks

Total = 16 out of 16 marks

## Commentary

The answer displays excellent sociological knowledge and is generally detailed and accurate. It is clear and logically structured. Relevant sociological material is applied to meet the demands of the question. The candidate has made three statements of evaluation which offers a reflective tone. The candidate reaches a fully supported critical conclusion.

## How the answer could be improved

The evaluative point in the middle paragraph could be further developed.

**Question 6** Assess the view that the roles of men and women in the family have changed.**[24]****Low band – Sample answer**

Feminists think that the family is not an equal place and that men are still controlling women. One of the worst forms of control is domestic violence. Dobash and Dobash said that women are abused every day in the UK and at least 1 in 5 women will be victims. It is a very serious issue and sometimes the police do not do enough. It can be physical, emotional or sexual. Over the years the number of men being abused has risen and shows things are changing in the family. It's even harder for men because they might not want to talk about it because they feel embarrassed.

Roles have definitely changed within the family because some families do not have a man and woman. Some families are lone parent, usually a woman as they don't need a man to help them. The New Right think this is bad because they have benefits; Charles Murray calls it perverse incentives. In some families there are two men and two women and each take an equal role. The family doesn't have to be a man and a woman anymore.

Another way in which the role of men and women is changing in the family is more women are going to work and being the breadwinner of the family. Hakim said that women can make one of three choices. It's up to them. They can be home centred where they choose to stay at home; they can be a mixture and work and stay at home looking after the kids, or they can be work centred and have a good career and job. In the past most women stayed at home so this proves it's changed.

A final way which shows the roles of men and women have changed is the change to maternity and paternity. Men can now have more time off and they never used to. This means they take a more active role in fatherhood. The woman gets more time off but the current government are looking to change that.

Roles have changed in the family.

A01 – 5 out of 8 marks   A02 – 5 out of 8 marks   A03 – 4 out of 8 marks

Total = 14 out of 24 marks

**Commentary**

This answer has good knowledge and understanding of a range of sociological ideas. Some remain under developed. The answer shows some structure. The material is applied to the question reasonably well but only shows a basic ability to evaluate through the use of simple statements. The conclusion is summative.

**How the answer could be improved**

More sociological evidence and theory is needed. The point on legislation is under developed and would benefit from the use of theory/what would feminists think about this. There is a small error as the rationale to change paternity leave came from the Liberal Democrats in the coalition. An opportunity is also missed to evaluate Hakim, are all women able to make those choices so simply?

### High band – Sample answer

Previously the family was a patriarchal institution in which women were oppressed mainly through the use of segregated gender roles. Parsons suggested that women were more naturally suited to the expressive role which includes caring for children and managing a household. Men on the other hand were more suited to the instrumental role which included going out to work and bread winning. This idea puts women in a subordinate position because the role they are given is unpaid. Benston the Marxist feminist stated that women were only seen as the reserve army of labour and were only needed in the workforce when it suited the needs of capitalism like in times of war. When they are not they are at home doing unpaid domestic labour. These ideas have been challenged by other feminists like Somerville who argue that women have come a long way in the family and no longer just perform the expressive role; many women are heads of the household and are the main wage earners.

A breakthrough study of the division of domestic labour was one by Wilmot and Young who made the claim that couples were making a move to more egalitarian relationships and they coined the term the symmetrical family. They believed that families would make a move to shared roles and that men were taking on an equal role in housework and childcare. Feminists were not in support of this. Ann Oakley criticised Wilmott and Young and in her study of housewives her finding contradicted that of Wilmott and Young she found that housework and childcare were still seen as the main responsibility of the female in the household and that men were simply helping out, meaning the relationship is not equal. This can be supported by the work of Edgell who found that there is no equality within the decisions made in the home. Men were responsible for making very important decisions about money and if a house move should happen, whereas women made decisions on unimportant things such as soft furnishings.

Feminists argue that the nature of relationships in the family have not changed and they remain unequal. Duncombe and Marsden noted that women do not receive the emotional support they need from their husbands and are left lacking in this area of their relationship. It would appear that more men feel happy in their marriage than women, meaning that marriage could benefit men more than it does women. However we cannot discount the improved role that men are taking in terms of fatherhood. Burghes discovered that the emotional role fathers play is more visible than ever before. Fathers are becoming more emotionally invested in their children's lives and there is more pressure on men to be good dads. A study showed that in the UK there are four types of dad, one is a traditional enforcer father who takes a traditional role. One is the entertainer dad, he mainly plays with the children allowing the female to get on with domestic tasks. One dad is the useful dad who will help out on household tasks and more importantly the last type father was the fully involved dad. This type of dad is taking a full and active role in fatherhood and parenting which is a huge change and a step towards more equal relationships between men and women.

This is in line with the change in masculinity. Connell argues there has been a rise in complicit masculinity where men have more respect for women. They take care of themselves and want to take a more active role in family life.

It is clear to see that some families will remain traditional and there will be an unequal division of power, and many families from ethnic backgrounds still operate in this way. There are also positive changes in fatherhood which show that men are doing more, this would be supported by feminists.

A01 – 8 out of 8 marks    A02 - 7 out of 8 marks    A03 - 7 out of 8 marks

Total = 22 out of 24 marks

## Commentary

This answer shows excellent knowledge and understanding and there is a range of points which are well developed. The material is logically presented and is accurate. There is an excellent ability to apply relevant material which is related to the question. The evaluation is fed in throughout and has a reflective tone. There is a fully supported critical conclusion.

## How the answer could be improved

The last point on the change in masculinity is under developed. An evaluative statement could also be added to this point.

## Option 2: Youth subcultures

**Question 7** Outline **two** characteristics of moral panics and illustrate your answer with examples. [12]

### Low band – Sample answer

One would be how quick they die out. This is where the moral panic goes away pretty much as soon as it appeared. Like hoodies, everyone was talking about it. People thought wearing a hoodie meant you were a criminal; one shopping centre even banned them. Now nobody talks about hoodies, they are back to being just normal items of sportswear.

Another would be over exaggeration, the football hooligans. Because of the moral panic people thought football hooligans were really bad and you had to be careful at football matches, people didn't want to take their kids. The police were always at the games and even wore plain clothes. Everybody had to sit down too. All the stadiums got CCTV so they could watch for hooligans.

A01 – 4 out of 8 marks    A02 – 2 out of 4 marks

Total = 6 out of 12 marks

### Commentary

This answer shows basic knowledge and does give two points but they are undeveloped and lacking depth. There is some lack of focus on the question.

### How the answer could be improved

The candidate could have used the correct sociologists of whom they are referring to. In the second point there needs to be a link to the question, they fail to really explain what 'disproportionality' means.

### High band – Sample answer

Stanley Cohen is one of the most used sociologists for moral panics. Cohen argues that a characteristic of a moral panic is the feeling of fear or threat that the general public face from the groups/individual who have been demonised. In Cohen's study folk devils and moral panics, he used the example of the Mods and the Rockers. The Mods and the Rockers were two distinctive youth subcultures in the 1960s. They each had their own sense of style, music and used different modes of transport. The Mods drove scooters whereas the Rockers drove large motorbikes. On occasions they would clash if they met. This happened on bank holidays at the seaside and there was a fight on Brighton beach. The mass media took this and sensationalised it writing about how bad the Mods and the Rockers were. The next bank holiday saw both increased police and media presence at the seaside in anticipation of the fighting, which was minimal. The media had us believe that all Mods and Rockers were bad which created a moral panic. Then everyone was scared of Mods and Rockers.

Concern would be another characteristic as suggested by Goode and Yehuda. The public must share the media's concern that the group/individual or action is bad for society and we should worry about it. The dangerous dog moral panic displayed this well as people were being attacked by the dogs and even died. The public then share the concern that these dogs are bad and there must be something done to stop them. This worked as the government introduced the Dangerous Dogs Act which actually banned some breeds of dog. This issue is also still around today as people are still being attacked and you can clearly see it's still a public concern.

A01 – 8 out of 8 marks    A02 – 4 out of 4 marks

Total = 12 out of 12 marks

### Commentary

This answer shows excellent knowledge and understanding. There are two clear and distinct characteristics of moral panics which are supported through sociologists and examples. The candidate applied the knowledge to the question explicitly.

**Question 8** Explain and briefly evaluate the view that youth subcultures are related to gender. **[16]****Low band – Sample answer**

Males and females do join different subcultures. You can see this just from the peer groups they are in. Girls tend to be in really feminine peer groups where they discuss clothes and boys and it's often centred in their bedroom; McRobbie said this was the bedroom culture. Their time is often spent indoors. Poor behaviour is discouraged as they are scared of getting a bad reputation but with boys this is the opposite. They mainly hang around in their peer groups outdoors and instead of good behaviour being encouraged it is mainly laddish behaviour that is praised. Hyper masculine behaviour often picking on girls. A sociologist said that men learn to control women in their peer group by the use of derogatory language.

Boys have always been involved in criminal subcultures for example they join gangs. Cohen said that because they do not do very well in school they suffer from status frustration and then they join gangs in order to achieve status. Girls are now also joining criminal subcultures and there is a rise in ladette culture. Girls are going into the night time economy and they are drinking and getting into fights. There are also many girl gangs in the UK and they fight too and carry weapons so it could be that boys and girls subcultural behaviour is not so different as they both join gangs. Because it's not really that normal for girls to behave in such a way they tend to get away with bad behaviour more showing that society does associate it more with boys. Females tend to get let off or get given a warning. Feminists have argued that women have been ignored for years in the field of crime and deviance.

Males and females do join gender based subcultures.

A01 – 5 out of 8 marks    A02 – 3 out of 4 marks    A03 – 2 out of 4 marks

Total = 10 out of 16 marks

**Commentary**

This answer displays some knowledge and understanding with some development in places. The points are mainly accurate and do develop links to the question but the explanations are generally underdeveloped and not always sociologically supported. The evaluation is under developed. There is a summative, rather than evaluative conclusion.

**How the answer could be improved**

Another point could be added to give the answer more range. The answer could have been more detailed in terms of sociological studies. The evaluation is also under developed.

**High band – Sample answer**

There are many different youth subcultures and sociologists argue that gender effects what type of group a person is in.

Within the education system it has been noted that boys and girls join different subcultures. It is known that boys are more likely to join anti school subcultures. Boys do not achieve as well in the school system compared to girls. Girls tend to accept the hierarchy in the education system whereas boys are more likely to rebel against it, especially those boys who are from a lower class or a minority group. They reject the norms and values of the education system placing little value on educational success whereas girls tend to conform more and place a high value on educational success. These boys then get status by adopting laddish behaviour. Paul Willis found this in his study learning to labour in which he observed 12 working class boys in school to see if their fatalistic attitude towards the education system would lead them into achieving working class jobs. Willis observed the boys and noted how they developed an 'us versus them' relationship with the teacher. In the end the boys did get working class jobs. Girls on the other hand are more likely to join pro school subcultures. They tend to accept the norms and values of the education system and value success. However Jackson has noted that there has been a rise in ladettes. Ladettes are behaving more like boys and ladettes in school are also adopting anti school subcultures.

There is also a noticeable difference when it comes to crime. Boys can be found in criminal subcultures and most of the work that has been done on subcultures is on men. Miller's study of focal concerns was focused on how young working class males display signs of toughness, smartness, fate, autonomy, trouble and excitement. Miller argues that these subcultural behaviours lead young males into criminality, such as the idea they have to be tougher than any other male group. This has been criticised by feminists such as Heidensohn who argues that female criminality has been ignored and we don't know if girls have focal concerns or not. The whole sociology of crime and deviance is malestream according to feminists so it would be hard to tell how much girls are involved in criminal subcultures.

It is clear to see that males and females do have different types of subcultural involvement which can be clearly evidenced in the education system. However it is worth noting that things are changing and girls are starting to change and develop different behaviours.

A01 – 6 out of 8 marks    A02 – 4 out of 4 marks    A03 – 4 out of 4 marks

Total = 14 out of 16 marks

## Commentary

This answer displays good knowledge and gives two points but in some depth. The material present is accurate. The points are applied to the question and there is an excellent ability to analyse and evaluate. There is a fully supported critical conclusion.

## How the answer could be improved

To move this answer into the top band another point could be added or the point on ladettes could be developed further.

**Question 9** Assess functionalist explanations of youth deviance.**[24]****Low band – Sample answer**

Young people are the most likely to be deviant in society. Hirshi said this is because they don't have any bonds of attachment. Hirshi is a functionalist and said there are 4 bonds of attachment - one of them is involvement. They don't vote, they don't work and they just aren't involved in society so they don't follow the rules and then they commit crime. A weakness of this though is that it doesn't tell us why some young people don't commit crime.

Another functionalist Cohen said it was because of status frustration which is when you don't do very well at school. Like in Willis's study the boys just mess around at school so they can't get good jobs. They are then frustrated with this and are deviant to get the status they missed out on. In a gang you would get street cred from other members the more violent you are.

Walter Miller has a slightly different take on why youths are deviant. He says they have focal concerns. There are 6 focal concerns; toughness, smartness, fate, trouble and excitement. These focal concerns might mean that young boys commit crime. For example boys want to be the toughest and more masculine which functionalists think should be their role. This means they get in fights. Excitement, they look for exciting things to do such as committing crime. Smartness is about knowing more than your opponent. All of these mean that young boys are more likely to commit criminal and deviant acts.

Marxists on the other hand do not think about young people not following the norms and values they think it's about where young people are in the system. The CCCS said it's because young people are resisting capitalism and that's why they commit crime. Young people want all the latest things but they can't afford them because they don't have a job so they might steal them off other people instead.

Functionalists argue that most people do follow the norms and values but young people are more likely not to because they want fun. I think Marxism is better.

A01 – 5 out of 8 marks    A02 – 5 out of 8 marks    A03 – 5 out of 8 marks

Total = 15 out of 24 marks

**Commentary**

This answer displays good knowledge and understanding but where it provides a range of points it lacks depth. Material is applied to the question but not always made explicit. Evaluation is underdeveloped and the conclusion is assertive.

**How the answer could be improved**

Hirschi and Miller and Cohen could both have been developed further with more detailed explanation. Evaluation could be further developed with the avoidance of the 'I think' statement.

### High band – Sample answer

Functionalists believe that everything in society must perform a function; youth is a transitional time in a person's life before they begin the role they have been allocated to. Young people are not quite ready for the roles they will play and are more likely to go against the norms of society, so there is often more deviant behaviour among the young than any other age group. Abrams noted that it's during this stage they also lack status so deviant behaviour is quite normal in young people.

Cohen who is a functionalist suggested that young people suffer from status frustration and that is why they are deviant. Status frustration occurs in the education system. Mainly boys from white working class background do not achieve highly in the education system. Yet they share the same values and aspirations as middle class children. When they do not achieve in the education system they will struggle to find a job and achieve their status. This brings the young boys a huge sense of personal failure and they will seek out other ways to gain status. As a result males will often join subcultures and gangs in which they can climb up the ladder to achieve their status. The more crimes they commit the more status they achieve. Feminists have criticised this view as there is no discussion of status frustration in girls. There are a growing number of girls who are not achieving in education especially in the working classes so girls would suffer from status frustration.

Merton argued that within society people feel strains to achieve the culturally set goals. Most of these goals are linked to material things such as owning a home. Merton said that along with the culturally set goals there were acceptable ways of achieving them such as a good education and getting a good job to pay for things. Not all individuals in our society are able to compete freely for the goals. Young people are often viewed negatively by society and can be discriminated against when applying for jobs and as a result they would suffer from strain. Merton discussed five potential responses to strain, one of them was retreatism. This is where a person accepts society's goals and means but can't get there so falls into a retreat world of drugs or alcohol. This can be seen within young people and who may often take drugs to escape their situations. Marxists in particular have been critical of this argument as they state that those with low status are kept at the bottom with responsibility for creating these culturally acceptable goals and setting the means to get them just another way for the upper classes to control the masses. Instead Marxists argue young people are deviant to resist authority like the skinheads in the 80s.

An alternative approach when explaining youth deviancy is from labelling theory. Young people are constantly labelled in the media so much so that we then believe they are bad. Cohen's study of the Mods and the Rockers shows how young people were targeted and accused of mass brawling. Through the spiral of deviancy amplification their deviant behaviour was blown out of proportion. They were then scapegoated and made folk devils. This is not the only time the media have done this to young people. A more recent example would be young teenagers wearing hoods. Again the media blew this out of proportion and labelled young people wearing hoodies as criminals. This shows that labelling has an impact on youth deviance because if people believe it young people might live up to the label.

It is clear to see that the functionalist perspective of youth deviancy tries to show how young people are in a transitional phase where they are more likely to be deviant but it doesn't tell us why only a handful of young people are deviant. Labelling theory is better because it shows us how and why society thinks young people are such a problem.

A01 – 8 out of 8 marks    A02 – 7 out of 8 marks    A03 – 6 out of 8 marks

Total = 21 out of 24 marks

## Commentary

This answer displays excellent knowledge of theory. Points are presented in a structured logical manner and are applied to the question well. The candidate shows a good ability to evaluate and presents a fully supported critical conclusion.

## How the answer could be improved

The point made on Abrams and the transitional phase could further be developed.

## Option 3: Media

**Question 10** Outline **two** ways that the media represent females and illustrate your answer with examples.

[12]

### Low band – Sample answer

One way is that women are seen as sex objects. They are presented as ideals with good bodies. They are shown to have hourglass figures and have blonde hair, this is called slim blondness. For many years the The 'Sun' has shown topless women on page 3 which shows they are just seen as objects. Feminists don't like this and want it to change.

Another way is that women are always seen in really stereotypical roles such as mothers and housewives. In soap operas in particular there are not many successful women. They are just shown in the typical expressive caring roles. There are even programmes like the 'Real Housewives of Cheshire', which is almost saying that being a housewife is the only thing women do.

A01 – 4 out of 8 marks    A02 – 2 out of 4 marks

Total = 6 out of 12 marks

## Commentary

This answer demonstrates basic knowledge and understanding. It lacks development and sociological concepts/studies. There is a basic ability to apply material to the question.

## How the answer could be improved

Both examples need developing with sociological evidence.

### High band – Sample answer

Firstly women are only represented in a limited number of roles. Men are often seen performing all roles and the most important ones. Feminists have argued the media is 'malestream' and the roles women are given are narrow. Tunstall argues that women are often presented as busy housewives or happy mothers, which indicates they are still viewed stereotypically by the media. There is a large proportion of women in the UK who are working and who are very successful; however this tends to be ignored. This also links to a lack of representation in sports, either in coverage or in reporting. When women athletes are shown the focus tends to be on their looks rather than their skills. This is known as the male gaze.

Secondly women are presented as victims. They are seen as weak and vulnerable. Particularly in films where they often need to be saved or rescued. In crime shows they are given the focus and stories often centre on women being victims late at night. Feminists argue that this taps into the negative stereotypical characteristics about women and does not show that women are strong and they do not need saving by men and they can also protect themselves.

A01 – 7 out of 8 marks    A02 – 4 out of 4 marks

Total = 11 out of 12 marks

## Commentary

This answer shows excellent knowledge and understanding. There are a range of sociological concepts and evidence. This candidate shows an excellent ability to apply material to the question explicitly.

## How the answer could be improved

The second example could be developed with sociological evidence.

**Question 11** Explain and briefly evaluate the view that media representations of age are changing. [16]**Low band – Sample answer**

Normally the media shows old people to be vulnerable and weak. Most of the stories talk about them being victims of crime. This hasn't changed at all - old people are still seen negatively in this way. In TV programs they don't get given very big roles and they are seen in a bad way and grumpy.

It's the same for young people they are also seen as negative and have been for years. This started in the 1950s when the Teddy Boys were seen as deviant. Cohen's study of the Mods and the Rockers also showed young people in a negative light. In more recent years there has been the negative representation of young teenagers wearing hoods and also in the London riots. Young people were blamed by the media for the riots even though it wasn't just the young people rioting. However there has been a bit of change. Radio One hosts an event called the teen awards, this is a celebration of young people which shows them more positively.

The process of aging is also presented negatively in the media. This hasn't changed. Getting old is seen as a bad thing and there are now more consumer products than ever before to prevent this. Adverts for Botox and face cream are always in the media. It's become socially acceptable to have cosmetic surgery. This is not the same in all cultures as some see the aging process as a positive thing but the media in the UK make it out to be bad and have always done. It puts people under pressure to stay looking young.

You can see that media representations of age remain the same, only few are challenging the stereotype.

A01 – 5 out of 8 marks    A02 – 3 out of 4 marks    A03 – 2 out of 4 marks

Total = 10 out of 16 marks

**Commentary**

This answer shows good knowledge and understanding and presents a range of points. Some points lack depth. There is a good ability to apply the knowledge to the question but the ability to evaluate is only basic.

**How the answer could be improved**

Evaluation could be further developed. There needs to be more sociological concepts/studies/theories in this answer.

**High band – Sample answer**

For many years the elderly have been seen in a negative light. Victor suggested old age was seen as a period of loneliness, ill health, dependence upon others and being ill equipped to learn. The media also take this view. Willis suggested that old people are stereotyped in drama as being grumpy and miserable. Old people are also seen as frail and weak. However this notion can be challenged - life expectancy is rising in the UK and people live for much longer. This means that people undergo an extended period of old age and make the most of it. Recently a pop group called the 'Zimmers' were on Britain's Got Talent. They rapped and were really popular. They record their music at Abbey Road Studios and have been in the charts. The media supported them showing old people in a totally different light and challenging stereotypes. They are also being taken more seriously as consumers as they do spend their money. This is known as the grey pound, old people are gaining more power.

Buckingham argues that children are seen as special and given some level of protection. There is a need to legislate the media for them. However recently children have been shown in a more negative light as they seem to be growing up too quickly. Any crime that children have been involved in has been sensationalised and they have been made to look really bad and evil, not special as they were once seen. Similarly the media has helped promote the sexualisation of young girls by promoting consumer goods such as clothes for them. This means that childhood is less of a clear age category on its own and the lines between children and young adults are becoming blurred, many years ago they were very distinct.

Youths have always been shown in the media as a social problem. They are negatively stereotyped however recently there has been more focus on young people and how they are key players in the future of the economy. This could have been because of the recent 2015 general election. Politicians may have been focusing on young people more positively to gain votes. Actually it might be that we won't see much of a change in how the media represents young people.

Functionalists argue that these age categories are functional for society to work properly and that stereotypes will change with society's needs and the social construction of that age category; however Marxists would argue that certain groups especially the young will continue to be represented poorly as it's a form of control to keep the most deviant in their place.

A01 – 7 out of 8 marks    A02 – 4 out of 4 marks    A03 – 4 out of 4 marks

Total = 15 out of 16 marks

## Commentary

This answer shows excellent knowledge and understanding with a range of fully supported points. The ability to apply knowledge to the question set is excellent and evaluative statements are made. The answer reaches a fully supported critical conclusion.

## How the answer could be improved

Evaluation could be further developed. Theory could have been added earlier in the answer.

**Question 12** Assess the view that audiences are active in their use of the media.**[24]****Low band – Sample answer**

Some sociologists argue that we believe all the messages the media sends us. This is called the hypodermic syringe model. The media sends us the messages and injects us like a drug - we believe everything the media tells us like a drug. Other sociologists think the audience do not believe everything and that the audience is more active.

One active model is the uses gratification model. This model says that people will get what they want from the media. This will be different depending on your social class age and gender. Two sociologists said there were 4 needs a person could have from the media messages. The first is diversion. You might want to escape from your everyday life and the media allows you to do this. People often watch soaps for this reason as they can escape and identify themselves with the characters. The second is personal relationships. This can be seen in soap operas too because we know more about them than our neighbours. The third is personal identity. This is where people use the media to help make decisions about their own life. You could watch lots of fashion shows or read lots of fashion magazines to try and change your look. The fourth is surveillance. You get lots of information from the media and you can pick what information you get. This model is good because it shows how active the audience is.

Another active model is reception analysis. This is where there are three potential readings from the media. One is preferred or dominant reading. People go along with it because it is widely accepted. One is oppositional reading, this is where a minority do not like what's being said. One is negotiated reading, which is where you change it to fit with your own opinion. Again this shows that the audience is active.

In conclusion the audience are active.

A01 – 5 out of 8 marks    AO2 – 5 out of 8 marks    AO3 – 4 out of 8 marks

Total = 14 out of 24 marks

**Commentary**

This answer shows generally good accurate knowledge but it remains underdeveloped in places. There is a reasonable range of knowledge. The candidate does have a good ability to apply knowledge to the question. This answer only displays a basic ability to analyse and evaluate and the conclusion is summative.

**How the answer could be improved**

More sociological evidence and studies/theory. Evaluation needs adding and the conclusion needs developing as it is just a statement.

### High band – Sample answer

The whole purpose of the mass media is tap into to its audience and make sure the audience is engaged. There are varying perspectives on how active the audience is, compared to how passive they may be. These are known as models of audience effect.

The two step flow model does believe that the audience is passive. Instead Katz and Lazarsfield suggest the media does not affect its audience as much as others have suggested. Instead other agents of socialisation hold more importance over people's views. For example you are around your family for most of your life and their views are important. They teach norms and values and pass on ideas and messages not the media. Therefore media messages are not as easy to get through. Katz and Lasarsfield present the concept of 'opinion leaders' and they argue media messages have to go through two stages. The first is the opinion leader is exposed to the media content. The second stage being those who respect the opinion leader internalize their interpretation of the content. This works well with social networking. However it is worth pointing out that not all individuals engage with or have social media and those who do are quite active. Those who are most vulnerable to media messages often do not have social media. This can also be discounted because of the wide range of social networking making it impossible for opinion leaders to infiltrate all areas of social networking.

The selective filter model also suggests that the audience are more active and for a message to get through it must pass through three filters. Klapper called the three filters; selective exposure, selective perception and selective retention. Selective exposure is linked to what the audience chooses to view, listen to or read. Media messages will have little effect if people do not see them. Selective perception is linked to whether or not the audience chooses to accept the message or not. If a person feels strongly about something they are more likely to accept a message. For example if there were stories on cosmetic companies testing on animals the message would impact somebody who felt strongly about animal rights but not somebody who didn't. Selective retention is linked to how much a message stays with somebody. Sometimes we forget what we see or read within minutes of viewing or hearing it but again if you felt strongly about something you would most likely remember it.

Marxists also present a model of audience effect where the audience is not passive, called the cultural effects model. They suggest that the media is a powerful agent when transmitting society's norms and values. The UK is made up of lots of different people and therefore they will all have their own interpretations of what they see and hear. Working class people will take more from a message which means something to them, whereas middle class people will take more from messages more suited to them. Never the less Marxists argue that because the ruling class ideology must be transmitted the messages do tend to favour those in power. Stories and programmes about those from the lower classes, in particular those on benefits, are never fair or representative and the wrong message could be interpreted. This means that the audience might not be as active in the approach to media messages as they are just picking up on the dominant classes' ideas.

The media is all around us. Postmodernists argue we live in a media saturated society so at some point people will believe in the media's messages. However people are not passive but are active individuals and other things effect how we view things not just the media.

A01 – 7 out of 8 marks    A02 – 7 out of 8 marks    A03 – 7 out of 8 marks

Total = 21 out of 24 marks

## Commentary

This answer displays excellent knowledge and understanding and presents both range and depth. The points made are applied explicitly to meet the demands of the question. Evaluation is excellent and the answer reaches a fully supported critical conclusion.

## How the answer could be improved

The second stage in the selective filter model could be developed with an example.



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