

**IM SYLLABUS (2008-2012)**

**SOCIOLOGY**

**IM 30**

**SYLLABUS**

**Sociology IM 30  
Syllabus**

(Available in September)  
1 Paper (3 hours)

**Introduction**

This syllabus is related to A level Sociology and a degree of parallel teaching is possible. However, the type of questions set, the depth of answers required and the method of assessment made should take into consideration the fact that the candidate is sitting for the subject at Intermediate level.

**Aims**

A course based on this syllabus should provide candidates with:

- a) a clear understanding of concepts, theories and methods within sociology;
- b) the opportunity to study selected areas of sociology;
- c) the chance to apply sociology to different societies, including Maltese society.

**Assessment Objectives**

The examination will assess a candidate's ability to:

1. demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of sociological concepts, theories and methods of sociological inquiry;
2. discuss sociological theories and methods;
3. use such knowledge and understanding to analyse and evaluate social behavior and social issues;

The candidate is to ensure the following:

- a) a clear understanding of the question/s asked
- b) the need of planning a coherent and structured answer/s
- c) the fact that it is not the length which matters but to-the-point answer/s.

**Assessment Pattern**

The examination will consist of one written paper of three hours. It will contain three sections: Section A: Theory (to choose one question out of three), Section B: Methodology (to choose one question out of three) and Section C: Substantive Areas, which is divided into two parts (to choose 1 question out of 3, from each part. Each part is to contain at least one question on each topic dealt with.

The titles showing the Substantive Areas are to be deleted.

**All questions carry an equal mark, namely 25.**

**Subject Content**

**SECTION A – THEORY**

Candidates are expected to be conversant with the theories of the following sociologists: E. Durkheim, T.Parsons, R.K. Merton, K.Marx, M.Weber, R.Dahrendorf, G.H.Mead and E.Goffmann.

**SECTION B – METHODOLOGY**

Students should be able to distinguish between Research Methodology and Methods. They must (1) be familiar with the main steps of the research process involved in sociological inquiry (2) be able to assess the advantages and disadvantages of the techniques used (eg. reliability and validity), and (3) be able to apply such techniques.

## **SECTION C – SUBSTANTIVE AREAS**

### **Part 1:**

#### **The Family**

- Sociological theories: feminist, functionalist, and Marxist;
- Social change and the family (effects of industrialisation, globalisation, modernisation and secularisation);
- Different forms and structures.

#### **Religion**

- Sociological theories: functionalist, Marxist and Weber;
- Secularisation and religious freedom
- Religious Organisations and Movements

### **Part 2:**

#### **Education**

- Sociological theories; conflict, functionalist and the interpretative perspectives;
- The school as a social system (i.e. cultural reproduction, meritocracy and streaming);
- Education and inequality (e.g. class and gender).

#### **Poverty and Social Exclusion**

- Sociological theories: conflict, New Right;
- Different forms;
- Culture of poverty;
- Social Exclusion and Welfare

#### **Suggested Readings**

Haralambos, M., and Hoborn M., 2004, *Sociology: Themes and Perspectives*, Prentice Hall Inc.  
John J. Macionis and Ken Plummer, 2002, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, *Sociology: A Global Introduction*, Prentice Hall Inc.