

AM SYLLABUS (2014)

SOCIOLOGY

AM 30

SYLLABUS

**Sociology AM30
Syllabus**

(Available in September)
Paper I (3 hrs) + Paper II (3 hrs) + Paper III (3 hrs)

Introduction

The overall objective of this syllabus is to provide candidates with a knowledge and understanding of the main sociological theories, concepts and methods.

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 coherent and structured answers; and
- c) the fact that it is not the length which matters but to-the-point answer/s.

Assessment Pattern

The examination will consist of three written papers, each of three hours' duration.

Paper I is designed to test the candidates' knowledge and understanding of the nature and contribution of sociology as a discipline. Candidates will answer **three questions out of 5**. Each question carries equal marks.

Paper II will be divided into Part I and Part II.

Part I is designed to test the candidate's knowledge and understanding of Sociological Research Methodology and Methods.

Part II is designed to test the candidate's knowledge and understanding of two Substantive areas. **Titles of substantive areas will not be shown on the examination paper.**

Part I will have three questions and Part II will have two questions. **Candidates will be required to answer one question from each section and any other question – three questions in total.**

Each question carries equal marks.

Paper III

This paper is designed to test the candidates' knowledge and understanding of four Substantive areas. **Titles of substantive areas will not be shown on the examination paper.**

There will be five questions, one on each of the four substantive areas and a fifth question on any other area.

The substantive area chosen for the formulation of the fifth question differs in September from the one of the May session

Candidates will be required to answer **any three questions.**

Each question carries equal marks.

SUBJECT CONTENT

Paper I

Sociological Theory

Candidates should demonstrate a sound knowledge of the theories of the following sociologists: E.Durkheim, T.Parsons, R.K.Merton, K.Marx, M.Weber, R.Dahrendorf, G.H.Mead, and E. Goffman.

Paper II

Part I – Methodology

Students are expected to distinguish between Methodology and Research Methods. They are to (1) be familiar with the research process involved in sociological inquiry, and (2) be able to assess the advantages and disadvantages of the techniques used to collect data, reliability and validity – costs, time and practical reasons.

Candidates should also be able to construct an empirical research project.

Part II – Substantive Areas (titles of substantive areas are not to be included in the examination paper)

- **SOCIAL CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT:**
 - Sociological theories: Functionalist, Conflict, Modernisation, Dependency, World Systems;
 - Forms and causes of change (Ideology, tactics used, effects);
 - Global development: meaning, causes and effects;
 - Social Movements: typology, tactics used and ideology;
 - Agents of social change;
- **SOCIAL STRATIFICATION:**
 - Sociological theories: T.Parsons, K.Marx, M.Weber, J.Goldthorpe, and R.Dahrendorf,;
 - Forms and causes;
 - Social mobility;
 - Social and cultural inequality.

Paper III

- **FAMILY:**
 - Sociological theories: Functionalist, Marxist and Feminist
 - Forms and structures;
 - Functions and roles;
 - Family and change.
- **POVERTY, SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND WELFARE:**
 - (Poverty and Social Exclusion)**
 - Sociological theories: O.Lewis, C.Murray, P.Townsend;
 - Forms and causes
 - (Welfare)**
 - Sociological theories: G.Esping-Anderson, T.H. Marshall
 - Different models

- **EDUCATION:**
 - Sociological theories: Functionalist, Conflict, Interactionist, and Critical;
 - The school as a social system;
 - Opportunity and Inequality.

- **RELIGION**
 - Sociological theories: Parsons, Durkheim, Marx and Weber;
 - Social change and social control;
 - Religious Organisations;
 - Religious Movements;
 - Secularisation and Religious freedom.

Suggested Readings

Macdonis John J., Plummer Ken, latest edition, *Sociology: A Global Introduction*, Prentice Hall Inc
Haralambos, M., and Holborn M., latest edition, *Sociology: Themes and Perspectives*, London, Harper
Collins Publishers Ltd.