

IM SYLLABUS (2015)

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 behaviour 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. This section will consist of four questions, one from each of the three substantive areas and a fourth one on any one of the areas. Candidates are to choose two questions from this section. The titles of the substantive areas will not be included in the examination paper.

The substantive area chosen for the fourth questions differs in the September session from the May Session

All questions carry equal marks (25 marks).

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, and G.H.Mead.

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, and (2) be able to assess the advantages and disadvantages of the techniques used (e.g. reliability and validity).

SECTION C – SUBSTANTIVE AREAS

The Family

- Sociological Theories: Functionalist, Marxist and Feminist
- Different forms, structures and functions
- Social change and the family (effects of Industrialisation, Modernisation and Secularisation)

Religion

- Sociological Theories: Durkheim, Marx and Weber
- Secularisation
- Religious movements

Education

- Sociological theories: Functionalist, Marxist and Interactionist
- The school as a social system
- Education and inequality (class and gender)

Suggested Readings

Haralambos, M., and Holborn M., latest edition, *Sociology: Themes and Perspectives*, Harper Collins Publishers Ltd.

John J. Macionis and Ken Plummer, latest edition, *Sociology: A Global Introduction*, Prentice Hall Inc.