

**AM SYLLABUS (2008-2011)**

**SOCIOLOGY**

**AM 30**

**SYLLABUS**

**Sociology AM 30  
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 and 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.

Each Part will have three questions. Candidates will be required to answer **two questions from Part I and one question from Part II**.

Each question carries equal marks.

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

This paper is designed to test the candidates' knowledge and understanding of four Substantive areas.

Each Part will have three questions. Candidates will be required to answer **two questions from Part I and one question from Part II**.

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, A.Gramsci, P.Bourdieu, J.Baudrillard and J.F.Lyotard.

**Paper II**

Part I – *Methodology*

Students should be able to distinguish between Methodology and Research 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) apply such techniques.

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

Part II – *Substantive Areas*

- **SOCIAL CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT:**

Sociological theories: Functionalist, Conflict, Modernisation, Dependency, World Systems;  
Forms and causes of change (Ideology, tactics used, effects);  
Social Movements as agents;  
Development & Underdevelopment: Meanings and causes;  
Globalisation;  
North-South debate.

- **SOCIAL STRATIFICATION AND INEQUALITY:**

Sociological theories: T.Parsons, K.Marx, M.Weber, J.Goldthorpe, W.G.Runciman, A.Oakley;  
Forms and causes;  
Social mobility;  
Social and cultural inequality.

**Paper III**

Part I:

- **FAMILY:**

Sociological theories: G.P.Murdock, T.Parsons, F.Engels, P.Laslett, J.Finch, C.Delphy, S.Firestone;  
Forms and structures;  
Functions and roles;  
The family and change.

- **POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION:**

**(Poverty)** Sociological theories: O.Lewis, C.Murray, P.Townsend, A.Walker;  
Meanings and forms;  
Causes and distribution;  
Solutions and values.  
**(Social Exclusion)** Sociological theories: T.H.Marshall, G.Esping-Andersen;  
Meaning and forms;  
Causes and solutions.

Part II:

- **EDUCATION:**

Sociological theories: Functionalist, Conflict, Interactionist, New Right, Critical;  
The school as a social system (cultural reproduction, labeling, meritocracy, streaming);  
Education and change;  
Opportunity and Inequality.

- **RELIGION**

Sociological theories: Evolutionist, Functionalist, Conflict, M.Weber;  
Functions (social change, social control, social order);  
Religious Organisations (Church, cult, denomination, sect);  
Religious Movements (Fundamentalist, Millenarian, Charismatic, New Age);  
Secularisation and Religious freedom.

**Suggested Readings**

Maconis John J., Plummer Ken, 2002, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, *Sociology: A Global Introduction*, Prentice Hall Inc  
Haralambos, M., and Holborn M., 2004, 6<sup>th</sup> edition, *Sociology: Themes and Perspectives*, London, Collins