



L-Università
ta' Malta

MATSEC
Examinations Board



Marking Scheme

SEC Social Studies

Main Session 2023

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In the case of marking schemes that include model solutions or answers, it should be noted that these are not intended to be exhaustive. Variations and alternatives may also be acceptable. Examiners must consider all answers on their merits, and will have consulted with the MATSEC Examinations Board when in doubt.

A. PAPER I**General Guidelines**

- (i) In the answers to the “Define” questions carrying 2 marks each, candidates have to show a clear understanding and a good grasp of the concept. No need for elaboration.
- (ii) For the other four questions carrying 10 marks each, the allotment of marks should be according to table below:

Clarity, Relevance of material	40%
Reference to concepts to add depth and avoid falling into the trap of stating the obvious	40%
Sustained by apt examples	20%

Section A**Specific Guidelines***Question 1*

- (a) **Health:** Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.
- (b) **Inequality:** Inequality is described as the unequal distribution of income or wealth.
- (c) **Social deprivation:** Social deprivation is the reduction or prevention of cultural interaction between an individual and the rest of society. Social deprivation contributes to social exclusion; these factors include mental illness, poverty, poor education, and low socio-economic status.
- (d) **Unemployment:** Individuals who are employable and actively seeking a job but are unable to find a job.
- (e) **Poverty:** the state or condition in which a person or community lacks the financial resources and essentials for a minimum standard of living.

Question 2

- (a) Candidates are to outline **THREE** of the following effects that illegal substances leave on the human health: lung or heart disease, stroke, cancer, or mental health conditions such as depression, insomnia or sleepiness, extreme tiredness. Candidates can also mention tiredness, aggression, anxiety, paranoia.
- (b) Candidates are to name **TWO** of the following services found in the Maltese islands: Dar L-Impenn; Dar Papa Frangisku; Dar Maria Dolores; Alcoholic Anonymous; Caritas Malta; San Blas; Oasi Foundation; Cocaine Addiction Therapy; Al-Anon Malta.

Question 3

- (a) Candidates are to refer to routine health care that includes screenings, check-ups, and patient counselling to prevent illnesses, disease, or other health problems, compulsory immunization, health promotion unit.
- (b) Candidates are to mention that poverty is both a cause and a consequence of poor health, where poverty increases the chances of poor health. Poor people are more exposed to environmental risks (poor sanitation, unhealthy food etc). Individuals are also less informed about the benefits of healthy lifestyles and have less access to quality health care, they are therefore more at risk of illness and disability.

Question 4

- (a) Candidates are to mention that the WHO is the World Health Organization. A worldwide organization that promotes health, keep the world safe, and serve the vulnerable. It promotes universal health coverage, protects individuals from health emergencies, and provide a better health and well-being.
- (b) Candidates are to mention the following reasons:
- Improved healthcare and advances in medicine such as the development of vaccines and new technologies such as CT scans which helps doctors diagnose illnesses before symptoms appear.
 - Improved hygiene and living conditions such as modern plumbing and sewer systems which made it possible for people to live in cleaner environments than ever before.
 - Improved lifestyle and exercise where physical activity reduces the risk of an unhealthy lifestyle. Exercise can also reduce stress of everyday life.
 - Improved food and nutrition where individuals who eat healthy can help prevent diseases, diabetes, and obesity.

Question 5

Candidates should demonstrate knowledge of what sustaining a healthy lifestyle is. This should include that healthy lifestyle is a way of living that lowers the risk of being seriously ill or dying early. A healthy lifestyle is a way of living that helps individuals enjoy more aspects in life. The focus should be on having a balanced diet, maintaining regular sleep patterns, exercise, having fun, whilst avoiding any substances that may alter us.

Section B

Question 1

- (a) **Youth:** This age range varies by culture and society, but it typically includes people between the ages of adolescence and young adulthood. A transition from childhood to adulthood; physical and psychological development and seeking one's identity.
- (b) **Social Media:** digital tools and platforms that allow individuals to create, share, and exchange information, ideas, and content in virtual communities and networks. (examples: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok)
- (c) **Gender:** the social and cultural differences between men and women. This includes the behaviours, attitudes, and identities which, in a particular society or culture, are associated with particular genders.

- (d) **Employment:** the engagement of persons in paid labour, often as part of the formal economy. This includes both full-time and part-time work, as well as self-employment.
- (e) **Politics:** the process by which groups of people make collective decisions. Politics can be studied at various levels, from local communities to national governments, and can include both formal institutions such as political parties and governments, as well as informal groups and movements.

Question 2

Traditional approaches such as organized protests, rallies, and marches, as well as participation in established political parties or organizations vis-à-vis a more contemporary approach characterized by technology which has become the backbone to many of these modern youth movements. Popular applications like Twitter, Instagram and YouTube have become the newest tools for young activists in the 21st century which leave positive impacts on political engagement.

Question 3

- (a) Three examples may include Żgħażaġĥ Haddiema Nsara (ŻĦN), Forum Żgħażaġĥ Laburisti (FŻL), Moviment Żgħażaġĥ Partit Nazzjonalista (MŻPN), Alternattiva Żgħażaġĥ, Moviment Graffiti, Żgħażaġĥ Azzjoni Kattolika (ŻAK), amongst others.
- (b) Depending on the choice of youth organisations, the aims can vary from political to religious to social aims (environmental focus, civil rights, political accountability, education, links between spirituality and social action, embracing of particular ideologies, promoting youth activism).

Question 4

Answers may focus on either of the following: academic/vocational education, higher education opportunities such as University of Malta, MCAST, ITS, Youth.inc, various apprenticeship programmes covering a wide variety of fields including agribusiness, creative arts, business and commerce, engineering or study-abroad programmes, including Erasmus+ and other exchange programmes which allow students to study at a foreign university or college for a semester or a full academic year.

Question 5

Candidates should analyse the role played by young people in politics and other areas by pinpointing some causes which have been leading to a degree of disappointment among several youths. Possible arguments may include a lack of information, a lack of political representation and involvement in decision-making, stereotypes, and a degree of helplessness. Candidates should also argue whether they think that disillusioned youths are in fact a majority or not.

B. Paper 2A

General Guidelines

The 25 marks allotted to each question should be apportioned according to the table below:

Relevance: Focus on relevant material sustained by concepts and apt examples	10
Analysis: Ability to engage in an argument that provides a critical analysis	10
Presentation: Orderly and coherent presentation	5

SECTION I: THE INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY

Question 1

The definition of stratification which is a ranking of people or groups of people within a society. Candidates should also show some knowledge on the difference between social class including the differences found between Upper, middle and lower classes whilst explaining the inequalities and social discrimination found between each. While expressing their views on inequalities some information on the privileged in society (white collar vs blue collar) can be mentioned. Important emphasis should be made on Karl Marx (money and property) and Max Weber (power and social status). Candidates should also accommodate information on social mobility (Vertical and Horizontal).

Question 2

A group is a number of individuals who have the same interests or aims, and who organize themselves to work or act together.

Factors leading to conflicts in different groups:

Gender

- social problems occur when dominant groups mistreat subordinate ones.
- dominant groups exploit or oppress subordinate groups.

Ethnicity: Ethnic conflict arises if ethnic groups compete between themselves or different ethnic groups for the same goals: power, access to resources, and territory.

Religion

- Religious conflicts may arise over belief differences.
- Other conflicts, and most common are the desire for political power, struggle for resources, and economic competition over territory, resources, and political recognition.

SECTION II: SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Question 3

Candidates are to refer mainly on how technology is operating on a global scale and how the trend of technology driving globalization continues at a feverish pace. The proliferation of media and internet access to practically every person on the planet and greater access to personal technology connected to the internet, continues to show the reality of how humanity is brought closer together more than ever.

Question 4

Candidates are to refer to the definition of marriage, while also including religious and/or civil forms of marriages. Candidates must show knowledge on the different types of marriages found in different types of societies, being:

- Endogamy marriage;
- Exogamy marriage;
- Monogamous marriage;
- Polygamous marriage: polygyny (where one man is married to several women) and polyandry (polyandry, where one woman is married to several men).

SECTION III: SOCIAL ISSUES

Question 5

Candidates are expected to highlight the ways in which girls and women are more likely to be systematically affected by discrimination and violence. They may focus on instances of limited access to education, which maintains a cycle of poverty and inequality; the fact that they are also more likely to be forced into early marriage; and that they are more likely to experience violence, both within their homes and in the wider community. Their voices are often not taken seriously or given enough weight in decision-making processes. Candidates need to discuss to what extent this is the norm and what struggles are being carried forward to combat such situations and systems.

Question 6

Candidates should distinguish between the concepts of welfare state and welfare society. A welfare state is a government that provides for the basic needs of its citizens through social programs and policies, e.g. unemployment benefits, healthcare, and housing assistance providing a safety net for citizens and promoting social and economic equality. A welfare society, on the other hand, refers to a society in which individuals, groups, and organizations work together to meet the needs of all members of the community e.g. private charities, non-profit organizations, and volunteer groups. Candidates should argue, by referring to concrete examples, if it is the case that a welfare state is more effective than a welfare society in limiting/eradicating poverty.

SECTION IV: DEVELOPMENT AND CHANGE

Question 7

Candidates first need to define both economic and environmental development and then explore the possible positive and negative relations between the two. Economic development involves the creation of more and better jobs, increasing income, and improving living standards for people through, amongst others, investing in infrastructure, education and training programs, and promoting industries and businesses. Environmental development is about protecting and preserving the natural environment through a variety of means such as reducing pollution and waste, conserving natural resources, and protecting endangered species and habitats. While economic development can lead to the development of new technologies and industries that can help reduce environmental degradation and improve environmental quality, for example, the green economy, it can also lead to environmental degradation if it is not managed properly.

Question 8

Candidates need to explore how before the pandemic, the incomes of the bottom 40% of the population grew faster than the national average in a majority of countries. The impacts of the pandemic and uneven recoveries in different regions of the world threaten to reverse that trend and further worsen global inequality. Extreme poverty in low-income countries has rapidly increased, setting back progress by eight to nine years, while progress in upper-middle-income countries has been set back by five to six years.

C. Paper 2B**General Guidelines**

- (i) In the 'Explain' or 'define' questions clarity is very important. A short answer without any ambiguity is required. Answers can be simple but contextualized.
- (ii) In 'give examples' questions, the examples given should be relevant, reflecting understanding and application of concepts.
- (iii) The allotted 15 marks are to be apportioned according to the table below.

Relevance: Focus on relevant material	5
Reference to concepts – essays should contain an element of analysis	5
Presentation: Organisation and Coherence	5

SECTION I: THE INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY*Question 1*

- (a) **social stratification:** the allocation of individuals and groups according to various social hierarchies of differing power, status, or prestige.
- (b) Candidates are to show knowledge of the **THREE** social classes:
 - Upper class:** owners of land/property, have distinctive lifestyles, different and expensive leisure patterns, political decisions, and economic wealth.
 - Middle Class:** These white-collar workers who have more money than those below them on the "social ladder," but less than those above them. The middle class is divided into two levels.
 - Lower Class:** The lower class can be described as having individuals who are common with; poverty, homelessness, and unemployment. Individuals of this class may, or are suffering from lack of medical care, adequate housing and food, decent clothing, safety, and vocational training. They are often stigmatized as the underclass.

Karl Marx:

- Marx focused on **TWO** classes: the bourgeoisie (rich) and proletariat (poor).
- The two classes depend on each other to function.

Max Weber:

- Weber believed that it is not only money and power that distinguish social stratification, but also social status.
- Social status is a label which individuals hold representing their social position in society such as doctor.

Question 2

- (a) Social group: A group of people that interacts with each other and share similar characteristics and a sense of unity.
- (b) Candidates should mention and explain any of the following: Family, Religious, Peer group, Pressure Group.
- (c) Dominant social groups see that norms and values are not challenged.
- Minorities groups do not fit into the dominant culture.
 - Religious groups (sects, cults, denominations).
 - Age gap in society.
 - Being deviant towards authority.

SECTION II: SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Question 3

(a) **Media pluralism:** the state of having a plurality of voices, opinions, and analyses in media systems.

(b) **Mass media:**

- Implies platforms which people socialize.
- Technological devices that reach a large number of people.
- Examples: TV, Radio, Newspaper, Magazine.

Social Media:

- Social media refers to computer-based technology that allows users to create and distribute information as well as participate in social networking.
- Social media platforms facilitate the interchange of information, ideas, interests, and emotions.
- Example: Facebook, Instagram, You Tube.

(c) **Information:** Mass media's main function in passing on the right information. Informative functions of media also allow the audience to know about what's happening around them and come to the truth.

Education: Media tries to educate people directly or indirectly using different forms of content. Examples used can be direct which allows people to be educated online. Other methods can be used indirectly such as drama, documentaries, and stories.

Entertainment: Media provides amusement to individuals. Media makes leisure time more enjoyable and fun.

Socialization: Media socializes people by making them aware of what is acceptable in their culture and society. Socialization helps individuals to shape their behaviours, attitudes, and beliefs.

Question 4

- (a) **Family:** a group of two or more persons related by birth, marriage, or adoption who live together.
- (b) **Nuclear Family:** is a family group consisting of parents and their children, typically living in one home residence.
- Extended family:** is a family that extends beyond the nuclear family of parents and their children to include aunts, uncles, grandparents, cousins, or other relatives, all living nearby or in the same household.
- Patriarchal family:** a family which its social system has the father or a male elder with absolute authority over the family group.
- Matriarchal family/system:** is one in which the rulers are female and power or property is passed from mother to daughter.
- Symmetrical family:** family divides all responsibilities equally between partners.
- (c) The traditional forms of family which include/means that the status or tie that exist between individuals are descended from the same line of individual/s.
- Blood family is by chance not by choice.
 - Friendship and relationships may be considered more important than family.
 - Adoption is the action or fact of legally taking another's child and bringing it up as one's own.
 - Reconstituted families composed of an adult couple, married or unmarried, living with at least one child born from a previous union of one of the partners.

SECTION III: SOCIAL ISSUES

Question 5

- (a) **Sex** is the biological differences and **gender** is the social and culture differences between men and women.
- (b) Gender inequality refers to the unequal distribution of power, resources, and opportunities between individuals and groups based on their gender. Examples of gender inequality include the pay gap, unequal representation in leadership positions, unequal access to education and employment opportunities.
- (c) While citing concrete examples of gender-based inequality and discrimination, including the intensification of these inequalities during the Covid pandemic, candidates are expected to come up with tangible solutions to address these problems. Such solutions may include education, legal reform, economic empowerment and changing attitudes.

Question 6

- (a) A welfare state is a government that provides for the basic needs of its citizens through social programmes and policies, e.g. unemployment benefits, healthcare, and housing assistance providing a safety net for citizens and promoting social and economic equality. A welfare society, on the other

hand, refers to a society in which individuals, groups, and organizations work together to meet the needs of all members of the community e.g. private charities, non-profit organizations, and volunteer groups.

- (b) Candidates need to distinguish between different forms of poverty: relative/absolute; material/social
- (c) Candidates are expected to compare and contrast the effectiveness of the welfare state, as opposed to a welfare society. They are expected to focus specifically on Malta's welfare programmes and to argue to what extent is the present safety net preventing as many people as possible from falling through or not, judging by the large number of individuals who are turning to food banks and charity organisations, have their basic necessities catered for.

SECTION IV: DEVELOPMENT AND CHANGE

Question 7

- (a) **Sustainable development** is development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
- (b) **Economic development** involves the creation of more and better jobs, increasing income, and improving living standards for people. It may also involve addressing issues such as poverty and inequality and environmental protection.
- Environmental development** is about protecting and preserving the natural environment for the benefit of current and future generations. This can be achieved through a variety of means such as reducing pollution and waste, conserving natural resources, and protecting endangered species and habitats.
- (c) Candidates are expected to delve into the relationship between economic and environmental development by contextualizing this exploration in a local context, exploring situations in which economic growth is at loggerheads with economic sustainability (construction industry, overuse of water, etc) and situations when a better balance between the two is within reach (recycling of waste, circular economy, green economy).

Question 8

- (a) **Global inequality** is the unequal distribution of resources, opportunities, and power that shape the well-being of individuals.
- (b) Uneven distribution of wealth can lead to serious levels of poverty for the affected people.
- Lack of education;
 - Homelessness;
 - Use of substances;
 - Lack of health insurance.
- (c) Eliminating poverty through equity. One of the main causes of poverty is inequality.
- Reducing poverty with resilience.
 - Commit to climate change solutions and climate justice.
 - Eradicating poverty through education.

