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## Revision

# Revision practice

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This issue focuses on the AQA 10-mark questions in some of the optional topics. Many students fail to do justice to this type of question and lose the opportunity to gain marks. It is always worth practising answering exam-style questions, or questions from past papers, as often as possible throughout your course. Further exam-style questions will be supplied in the next issue. The PowerPoint presentation looks at social media and conspiracy theories.

## 10-mark questions

The examples below are typical of the second 10-mark question in AQA Paper Two 'Topics in Sociology', in which you are asked to analyse two somethings, e.g. ways, reasons etc. There are some general points that can be applied to all such questions, and it is worthwhile learning what these are. The examiners' reports, issued at the end of each exam series, indicate that many students are making the same kinds of mistake, and failing to gain top marks in these questions. Here are some of the important things to know when answering this type of question.

- 1 There is no need to write an introduction or conclusion in this type of question, though it is always a good idea to separate out the two parts of your answer.
- 2 You cannot simply rely on your knowledge of the topic and recite that. The question will require you to make links between different aspects of the topic, often needing you to show how one aspect has an effect on, or is related to, something else.
- 3 In the type of question below, which has a short item and then asks you to 'analyse' something, you must use the 'prompts' or 'hooks' in the item to inform your answer. This means that you should take time to read the item carefully, and not just jump straight into answering the question.
- 4 You should state your point clearly, then develop it, using appropriate sociological concepts, evidence and, if relevant, theories. Remember when developing your point that you should be making links between social phenomena.
- 5 Watch your timing! You should spend about 15 minutes preparing and writing your answer, so focus on making every word count. Don't be tempted to go into great detail about particular research findings, make sure that you are using relevant sociological concepts (no need to explain these — examiners will know what is meant by the domestic division of labour, or pupil subcultures, or social media etc.

This may all sound complicated, but if you practise answering this kind of question regularly, you will develop the appropriate skills, and will automatically demonstrate those skills in the exam.

## Culture and identity

### Item

**Schools are important agents of socialisation. Their rules and practices, both formal and informal, help to shape pupils' identities and instil a particular ethos, or culture.**

**Schools can be important in shaping pupils' ideas about what is considered appropriate gender behaviour.**

*Applying material from the item, analyse two ways in which schools may shape ideas about gender behaviour.*

Here, you must use your knowledge about schools as agents of socialisation and apply it to ideas about what is considered appropriate gender behaviour. You might choose examples such as subject choice, rules about school uniform, pupil subcultures, curriculum materials, access to different sports and teachers' attitudes towards male and female pupils. Your examples could be drawn from primary or secondary education, or one of each — though you should make this clear.

## Families and households

### Item

**In 2022, 30% of all households in the UK consisted of a person living alone. More than half (53%) of such households consisted of women.**

**Demographic and social changes, together with patterns of migration, have led to the high proportion of single-person households.**

*Applying material from the item, analyse two reasons for the high proportion of single-person households.*

The item suggests three types of change that have resulted in the rise in single-person households, so it would be wise to choose two different ones. Demographic changes could include the increase in life expectancy, leading to more people losing their partner late in life, when they are less likely to form a new relationship. Social changes could include the rise in divorce and separation, more gender equality making it easier for women to have an independent career, a rise in the average age of marriage and greater geographical mobility. Patterns of migration could include migrants leaving their family behind while they establish themselves in the UK.

## Health

### Item

**The conditions into which we are born, live and work can all have an impact on our health and wellbeing. Good health is not spread evenly throughout the population.**

**Some groups and communities are likely to experience poorer health, and find it more difficult to access healthcare, than the general population.**

*Applying material from the item, analyse two reasons for inequalities in health and healthcare in the UK.*

You could choose here to focus on communities, such as those living in deprived areas, or particular groups, such as those from certain ethnic groups or disabled people. The item refers to where we are born, our housing conditions and the type of work we do as factors associated with health inequality, so you have a wide range of possible answers here. As well as factors influencing our health, the item also refers to access to healthcare, so this is another angle you may wish to focus on. Try to choose two different types of reason rather than, say, just taking two examples that arise from being born into poverty.