



### Option questions: Understanding Society

#### Question 2/3/4 (b/c) 30 marks

##### Essays on Education, Media, Religion

The essay structure is the same as for essays in Unit 1 and the tips for Unit 1 can be used to answer essays in Unit 2.

Your answers to these questions will include all three skills:

**AO1** – Knowledge and understanding

**AO2** – Applying and interpreting knowledge and understanding

**AO3** – Evaluating and analysing

**Tip:** Essays are always a debate. So, you must include argument here with lots of evaluation all the way through your answer. Start with a plan of all of the points for and against.

**Tip:** Turn the command into a question:

'Discuss the view that education effectively prepares young people for the workplace.'

This could become: Who says that education effectively prepares young people for the workplace and are they right?

This will enable you to sort the points for and against much more easily.

But remember, don't just describe all of the points. You must explain and evaluate them.

Your essays must always be a debate which contains a spread of AO1, AO2 and AO3 skills.

Suggested writing framework for every section of your essay:

**[D] Describe a point or a view that is relevant to the focus.**

**[E] Explain what it means.**

**[S] Support and criticise the point or view with evidence.**

**[I] Interpret what each reference to evidence shows.**

**[R] Refer (apply) this to the debate.**

**[E] Evaluate – point out the strengths and weaknesses of the specific idea (remember to make a judgement at the end).**

**Do:**

- have a good spread of all three skills throughout your essay
- make a judgement based on the debate in the essay
- use evidence.

**Don't:**

- just evaluate at the end
- just describe opposing views.

**Revision tip:**

Some questions are based on theories such as functionalism/Marxism, while others are focused on topics such as educational achievement, media representations and secularisation (religion).

**For theory questions:** Using different coloured cards, summarise the main ideas and writers for each theory. Put studies that support each theory on matching coloured cards. Practice explaining how each study could be used to support the theory. Then, try to use the studies to criticise the other theories.

**For topic questions:** Focus on the main debates within the topics and use different coloured cards to summarise the ideas supporting the different sides of the debate. Then put studies that support each side of the debate on matching coloured cards. Practice explaining how each study could be used to support an argument. Then try using these studies to criticise the opposing side of the debate.