

**Item C:** According to Marxists, society is based on conflict between the ruling class and the working class, with the ruling class exploiting the workers and enforcing a particular set of ideas onto them.

Not all Marxists agree about how society changes or what contemporary capitalism is really like.

Applying material from **Item C** and your own knowledge, evaluate the usefulness of Marxist approaches in understanding society. (20 marks)

### Paragraph 1

Point/theory to be discussed:

Quote from item to support point/ theory:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:

## Paragraph 2

Point/theory to be discussed:

Quote from item to support point/ theory:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:

### Paragraph 3

Point/theory to be discussed:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:

**Item C:** Functionalist sociologists view society like a human body, with different institutions acting like the various organs. They argue that these institutions teach members of society how to behave and ensure a broad level of agreement about what is normal. In this way, society works effectively.

Applying material from **Item C** and your own knowledge, evaluate the usefulness of functionalist approaches in understanding society. (20 marks)

Paragraph 1	
Point/theory to be discussed:	
Quote from item to support point/ theory:	
Explanation:	
Evidence/studies:	
Strengths:	
Limitations:	

## Paragraph 2

Point/theory to be discussed:	
Quote from item to support point/ theory:	
Explanation:	
Evidence/studies:	
Strengths:	
Limitations:	

### Paragraph 3

Point/theory to be discussed:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:

**Item C:** Feminists argue that contemporary society is male-dominated although they do not all agree about the extent to which this is the case, nor how best to improve society. Other sociologists disagree about gender being the most important identity in society.

Applying material from **Item C** and your own knowledge, evaluate the usefulness of feminist approaches in understanding society. (20 marks)

### Paragraph 1

Point/theory to be discussed:

Quote from item to support point/ theory:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:

## Paragraph 2

Point/theory to be discussed:

Quote from item to support point/ theory:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:



### Paragraph 3

Point/theory to be discussed:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:

**Item C:** Some sociologists argue that society is made up of small-scale interactions between individuals and small groups rather than built on big structures, like class conflict or value consensus. However, other sociologists question how useful theories are if conclusions cannot be applied to the whole of society.

Applying material from **Item C** and your own knowledge, evaluate the usefulness of interactionist approaches in understanding society. (20 marks)

Paragraph 1	
Point/theory to be discussed:	
Quote from item to support point/ theory:	
Explanation:	
Evidence/studies:	
Strengths:	
Limitations:	

## Paragraph 2

Point/theory to be discussed:

Quote from item to support point/ theory:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:

### Paragraph 3

Point/theory to be discussed:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:

**Item C:** Some sociologists are consensus theorists: they believe that different parts of society work together for the good of everybody. An example would be functionalists. Other sociologists are conflict theorists and believe there is a fundamental conflict at the heart of society. An example would be feminists. Action theorists also recognise some conflict in society, through ideas such as labelling.

Applying material from **Item C** and your own knowledge, evaluate the view that consensus approaches are more useful than conflict approaches to our understanding of society. (20 marks)

Paragraph 1	
Point/theory to be discussed:	
Quote from item to support point/ theory:	
Explanation:	
Evidence/studies:	
Strengths:	
Limitations:	

## Paragraph 2

Point/theory to be discussed:

Quote from item to support point/ theory:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:

### Paragraph 3

Point/theory to be discussed:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:

**Item C:** Some sociologists take a structuralist view of society, arguing that the best way to understand society is to understand the way it is structured and organised on a large scale. For example, Marxists think that contemporary society is structured around whether people own companies or work for them.

Other sociologists argue that individuals are influenced by their interactions with others, on a small scale, and that the fundamental structures of society are much less important.

Applying material from **Item C** and your own knowledge, evaluate the view that social action approaches are more useful than structural approaches to our understanding of society. (20 marks)

### Paragraph 1

Point/theory to be discussed:

Quote from item to support point/ theory:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:



## Paragraph 2

Point/theory to be discussed:

Quote from item to support point/ theory:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:

### Paragraph 3

Point/theory to be discussed:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:

**Item C**

Some sociologists argue that society has moved on from the modern era to an age characterised by rapid change, choice and diversity. These sociologists reject the old sociological theories, saying they are really just stories about society. Other sociologists argue that, while society is certainly changing, we are still in the modern era.

Applying material from **Item C** and your own knowledge, evaluate the usefulness of postmodernist approaches in understanding society. (20 marks)

**Paragraph 1**

Point/theory to be discussed:

Quote from item to support point/ theory:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:

## Paragraph 2

Point/theory to be discussed:

Quote from item to support point/ theory:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:

### Paragraph 3

Point/theory to be discussed:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:

**Item C:** Sociologists disagree about whether sociology can or should be a science. Some sociologists argue that it is a science, providing the appropriate research methods are used. Others say that it could be a science, but generally is not. Some argue that sociology is not and should never try to be a science. Of course, much depends on how you define science, and some contemporary thinkers argue that our traditional view of what science is might be wrong too.

Applying material from **Item C** and your own knowledge, evaluate the view that sociology cannot and should not try to be a science. (20 marks)

Paragraph 1	
Point/theory to be discussed:	
Quote from item to support point/ theory:	
Explanation:	
Evidence/studies:	
Strengths:	
Limitations:	

## Paragraph 2

Point/theory to be discussed:

Quote from item to support point/ theory:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:

### Paragraph 3

Point/theory to be discussed:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:



**Item C:** Positivist sociologists believe that sociology can, using the appropriate research methods, establish facts in the same way that the natural sciences can. They prefer research methods like questionnaires and statistics.

Other sociologists, however, disagree and argue that the positivist view misunderstands the nature of society and human behaviour.

Applying material from **Item C** and your own knowledge, evaluate the usefulness of positivist approaches to our understanding of society. (20 marks)

### Paragraph 1

Point/theory to be discussed:

Quote from item to support point/ theory:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:

## Paragraph 2

Point/theory to be discussed:

Quote from item to support point/ theory:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:

### Paragraph 3

Point/theory to be discussed:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:

**Item C:** Interpretivist sociologists argue that sociology should take an interest in what people think and believe and that this cannot be achieved through facts and figures. They believe that sociology cannot and should not try to be a science.

Other sociologists disagree and believe that sociology can establish facts like the natural sciences.

Applying material from **Item C** and your own knowledge, evaluate the usefulness of interpretivist approaches to our understanding of society. (20 marks)

Paragraph 1	
Point/theory to be discussed:	
Quote from item to support point/ theory:	
Explanation:	
Evidence/studies:	
Strengths:	
Limitations:	

## Paragraph 2

Point/theory to be discussed:

Quote from item to support point/ theory:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:

### Paragraph 3

Point/theory to be discussed:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:

**Item C:** Some sociologists argue that sociology should always be value free, that sociologists should leave their opinions to one side and approach their research like a scientist.

Other sociologists argue that values are an important and inevitable part of sociology and that it would be impossible and undesirable to keep values out of research.

Applying material from **Item C** and your own knowledge, evaluate the view that sociology should be value free. (20 marks)

### Paragraph 1

Point/theory to be discussed:

Quote from item to support point/ theory:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:

## Paragraph 2

Point/theory to be discussed:

Quote from item to support point/ theory:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:



### Paragraph 3

Point/theory to be discussed:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:

**Item C:** There are a number of factors that can influence what research method a sociologist might use. Practical issues are important, such as how much time it might take for the research to start producing results, but there are other influential factors too.

Applying material from **Item C** and your own knowledge, evaluate the view that practical factors are the most important influence when selecting research methods. (20 marks)

### Paragraph 1

Point/theory to be discussed:

Quote from item to support point/ theory:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:

## Paragraph 2

Point/theory to be discussed:

Quote from item to support point/ theory:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:

### Paragraph 3

Point/theory to be discussed:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:

**Item C:** Sociologists are influenced by a wide range of factors when they choose what topic to research. Feminists, for example, will tend to choose topics relating to gender and women's rights. However, sometimes more practical factors will influence the choice, such as whether the research can be paid for.

Applying material from **Item C** and your own knowledge, evaluate the view that theoretical perspective is the most important influence when selecting a research topic. (20 marks)

Paragraph 1	
Point/theory to be discussed:	
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Strengths:	
Limitations:	

## Paragraph 2

Point/theory to be discussed:

Quote from item to support point/ theory:

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Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:

### Paragraph 3

Point/theory to be discussed:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:

**Item C:** When governments' make new laws and policies that aim to make significant changes in society, they often claim to base their policy on evidence and research. Some sociologists argue that a key aim of sociology should be to influence policymakers, while others argue that sociology and governments should not get too close.

Applying material from **Item C** and your own knowledge, evaluate the view that sociology rarely influences social policy. (20 marks)

Paragraph 1	
Point/theory to be discussed:	
Quote from item to support point/ theory:	
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Evidence/studies:	
Strengths:	
Limitations:	



## Paragraph 2

Point/theory to be discussed:

Quote from item to support point/ theory:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations:

### Paragraph 3

Point/theory to be discussed:

Explanation:

Evidence/studies:

Strengths:

Limitations: