VCE Sociology

Sample Questions

Written Examination – End of Year

These sample questions are intended to demonstrate how new aspects of Units 3 and 4 of VCE Sociology may be examined. They do **not** constitute a full examination paper.

Australian Indigenous cultures

Representation 1



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Version 2 – May 2024

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Question 1 (4 marks)
Define ethnocentrism and explain why the use of British names for Australian places in Representation 1 might be interpreted as ethnocentric.

Question 2 (5 marks)
Explain how the map in Representation 1 challenges a public misconception relating to Australian Indigenous cultures. Use evidence from Representation 1 and other material you have studied this year.

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Question 3 (4 marks)
Explain the process of engaging the sociological imagination to study culture. Refer to material you have studied this year.

Question 4 (10 marks)

Explain what is meant by the process of reconciliation. In your explanation, comment on how the process might lead to achieving the aims of reconciliation.

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Ethnicity

Representation 2

Why I came back to the melting pot

As a teen, I couldn't wait to escape St Albans, but I soon returned. …

… We're a suburb of newly arrived migrants, with only 39.4 per cent of those living here born in Australia, and the fact that most residents are brunettes and their skin different shades of brown means it's easy to lob stereotypes and prejudice. …

St Albans is a suburb where culture reigns true. Who we are is what we are. My parents are Bosnian, and I'm both Bosnian and Australian, or a Boz from Oz as I call myself. And as the residents are a fusion of cultures and languages, so is our suburb. These migrant parents value education and they respect the work of teachers, and so teachers and students share mutual respect.

When my parents moved to St Albans in the 1970s it was a mini-Yugoslavia. Many, like my parents, fled to Australia to escape the economic hardship in Yugoslavia.

Even though we were from different regions of the home country, we were unified as Yugos, until the Balkan war of 1992–95, when our identities shifted again, and we became Serbs, Croatians, Macedonians, Albanians and Bosnians. The Maltese and Italians too dominated, and they each have their own social clubs, these landmarks proclaiming their arrival.

After the Vietnam War [1975], there were many refugees escaping to our shores, and in my final year of high school in 1994, the Vietnamese students were still viewed as the newcomers. The then mostly European students clumped together, and the Vietnamese students hosted their own separate formal, a shameful indictment of the racism they were subjected to.

Now the Vietnamese make up 30 per cent of the population of St Albans and herald their accomplishments in the shopfronts dotting Alfrieda Street, these bakeries and restaurants some of my favourite eateries. Now the newcomers are from the Horn of Africa, Pacific Islands and India, with Punjabi being the third most spoken language in the suburb, after Vietnamese and English.

We're a suburb where religion still dominates. In the 13 square kilometres there are two Muslim mosques – Arabic and Bosnian-Muslim. There are six Orthodox churches – Serbian, Greek, Coptic, Russian and Syrian; two Catholic churches; a Buddhist temple; and a number of Christian churches for denominations such as Lutheran, Anglican, Croatian, Seventh-Day Adventist. Most of these migrants find a sense of community in their houses of worship, and with these beliefs comes a conservative mindset. …

We [my husband and I] bought our first house, a weatherboard fixer-upper, around the corner from my parents' house in a street I had walked down nearly every day on my way to high school. It was to this house that I brought my baby daughter. … My journey began and circled back to St Albans, and it is in my sense of place that I get identity and belonging, my sense of purpose, and my muse. …

Amra Pajalic is an award-winning author of Sabiha's Dilemma *and* Alma's Loyalty*, the first two books in her 'Sassy Saints' series set in St Albans.*

Source: Amra Pajalic, *The Age,* 9 May 2023, Comment, page 23, © Amra Pajalic, reproduced by kind permission

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Question 5 (4 marks)
Explain, using **two** examples from Representation 2, what it means to be multicultural.

Question 6 (7 marks)
Multiculturalism was a new concept when Pajalic's parents moved into St Albans.

a. Describe the historical context for the adoption of multiculturalism in Australia. 3 marks

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b. Explain, using **two** examples from Representation 2, how the multicultural policy may have influenced feelings of belonging and inclusion for immigrants in St Albans. 4 marks

Question 7 (5 marks)

Explain the process of othering with reference to Representation 2.

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Question 8 (10 marks)

Describe how you applied ethical methodology to the study of **one** ethnic group this year. In your description, use examples from your study to show how you addressed the ethical concerns of voluntary participation, informed consent, privacy and confidentiality of data.

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Community

Representation 3

Geelong choir proving music and community are an antidote to loneliness

Evenings are quiet at Wesley Church in Geelong's CBD, except on Mondays when a harmony of 80 voices drifts through the open doors.

Creativity Australia's With One Voice Choir is a small community group providing residents with connection in one of Australia's fastest-growing cities.

With more people moving to the town once dubbed a 'sleepy hollow', the risks of experiencing social isolation and loneliness are increasing, with some studies showing a link between big cities and higher rates of loneliness.

Ending Loneliness Together chair Michelle Lim warns of 'significant health impacts' relating to loneliness, which at its most extreme can lead to 'increased likelihood of earlier death'.

…

But the Geelong residents who are members of the choir have found the effects of loneliness can be buffered with a weekly hour and a quarter of group singing. It is a connection literally saving lives in this burgeoning community.

Standing behind a Roland keyboard at the front of the room each week is Kym Dillon, an energetic, personable, whirlwind of positivity who leads the choir through its sessions. She is a composer and musician whose works [have Australian and global recognition].

But here in Geelong, it is her role in bringing almost 100 disparate residents together that draws the most admiration.

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'We give this kind of snapshot of humanity,' she says. 'We don't try to iron it out into everyone sounding the same way or looking the same or acting the same. We try to celebrate their individual characters, but every single person's voice is part of the overall fabric. That's what makes it work so well, but it's also so beautiful to me.'

In more than a decade of leading the choir, Kym has heard plenty of stories about members using the choir as a tool to create and maintain social connections.

'Some have told me that this is the one thing they can come out of their house for, [that] here they feel part of a family, able to contribute, a sense of ownership. So it literally is a lifeline for some people, and that story is just very profound for me to hear.'

During choir sessions the group stays seated as Kym walks them through each song, before the members stand to perform each piece together.

Jessica Walker spends a bit more time standing than most because she dances her way through each song, with each action helping her remember the words she cannot properly see on the projector.

'I joined the choir with my mum a while back,' Jessica says. 'I don't know really why. I just needed something to do, something to make me happy and get rid of all the pent-up energy I had. Because I have autism, Asperger's actually. I love it here, I love coming out of my shell, I love being me. I'm free to be me, whereas outside in society I feel the pressure of having to be like everybody else. But I'm not like everybody else, which I'm proud of. I'm proud of not being like everybody else. I'm proud I have a disability. I love having a disability, I love saying I have one. Because it's not really a disability, it's more a way of different thinking, in my opinion.'

Not only has the choir become a whole new 'family' for Jessica, it has also helped her deal with other personal trauma, with the group regularly performing a song written by her and Kym in honour of a lost friend. …

Rory Wilson lost the use of his legs about nine years ago when his bike hurtled into a stationary truck in Portarlington. It was a catastrophic injury, but three strokes he suffered while in hospital had the greatest impact on his life.

'They did more damage in the long run than the crash ever did,' he says. Rory joined the choir as a method of rehabilitation shortly after the crash, and never stopped turning up to sing alongside the handful of other men making up the small bass section.

'I come here on a Monday [and] I feel uplifted straight away,' he says. 'I look forward to coming here, and I love singing … it gives you a really good feeling. So whether it was doing anything for my brain or not is irrelevant. Just the singing alone is enjoyable. The social connection helps a lot.'

Rory's carer Genevieve Pape – who used to run with him at the Geelong Cross Country Club before the crash – also comes to the choir each week, joining from the back of the room with other carers.

Rory and the bass section get their time to shine at the end of each session, when they lead the group singing Goodnight, Sweetheart, Goodnight.

While older people often derive the most benefit from the social connection provided by community groups such as this, there are no age limitations at this choir.

Anastasia Warden was nine when she joined. Now 22, she is another member who just never stopped coming along after experiencing the bond the group provided.

'Singing gave me the voice that I wasn't allowed to have from a young age,' she says. 'I had a pretty unfortunate childhood, but I always found singing was the best way to express feelings that were buried deep within, and the family atmosphere we have here is just quite extraordinary. I grew up not really knowing what a family was. I grew up not knowing how it felt to sit at a dinner table and be together as one, but when I come here at choir I had my own kind of grandmother and my own kind of aunty and uncle, and it was just a really amazing feeling. It was the best replacement for what I should have had at home.'

Anastasia would love to be a solo singer one day, such is the impact the choir has had on her.

'I love it. Singing's the most powerful thing on Earth,' she says. 'It just brings so many people together.'

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Source: Harrison Tippet, ABC, 30 July 2023 <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-07-30/geelong-victoria-choir-providing-community connection/102664434>,
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Question 9 (5 marks)

Explain, using **two** examples from Representation 3, how Maffesoli's theory of neo-tribes could be applied to this community.

Question 10 (4 marks)

Describe the influence of **one** social factor on the experience of community for the With One Voice Choir. Refer to Representation 3 in your response.

Question 11 (10 marks)

Analyse how **two** different factors influence feelings of belonging in community groups. Refer to Representation 3 and a specific community group that you have studied this year to support your response.

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Social movements and social change

Representation 4

In the five years since we marched in 2018, we've proved time and time again that young people are a force to be reckoned with. Over 250 gun safety laws have been passed since **MARCH FOR OUR LIVES (MFOL)** was founded, billions of dollars have been committed to lifesaving programs, and youth voters turned out at record numbers in the last three elections, in no small part because young people were moved by **MFOL** to take action and see themselves as part of the civic process.

In the last two years, we've doubled down on our efforts and **MFOL** has become the leading voice for youth activism in the nation. We've deepened our work at the grassroots level with mutual aid efforts; filed Amicus Briefs[1] to bring youth perspectives to Appellate Courts[2] and the [US] Supreme Court; took to the streets to fight for, and win, the first significant piece of federal gun safety legislation in three decades; and engaged young voters in the midterm election to once again deliver historic youth turnout, delivering the margin of victory in key states across the country. And we're just getting started.

As we enter 2023 with new challenges at the federal level and opportunities at the state level, and with an eye towards a challenging 2024 electoral map, we remain in the fight for our lives.

Even as we've secured transformative change that will save lives, firearms have skyrocketed to become the leading cause of death for young people for the second year in a row. We're fighting against a century of entrenched forces, but it's a fight we're particularly suited for because of a simple reason—because we must. With boundless hope for the future, and with a strong sense of urgency, young people are rising to meet this moment because no one else will. The fact is, gun violence is not normal. It's a choice our leaders have made, and it's a choice that we will make unacceptable.

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Achievements to Date

Bipartisan Safer Communities Act

Following the horrific shootings in Buffalo and Uvalde, **MFOL** flooded the Capitol with 70+ lobby meetings and hundreds of thousands took to the streets once again across the country. Legislators heard our cry for help and passed the historic Bipartisan Safer Communities Act.

Judicial Advocacy

The youth-led Judicial Advocacy Team files amicus briefs in different court cases across the US, including in the landmark *NYSRPA v. Bruen* Supreme Court case … centered on the stories of young people and how the Court's interpretation of the Second Amendment affects their lives. We are continuing to file briefs to stem the fall out from the *Bruen* ruling.

State Legislation

With the help of **MFOL**'s Policy Team and volunteers, California prohibited ghost guns and firearm marketing to minors, New Jersey required training and permits, and Delaware banned assault weapons and raised the minimum age to purchase most firearms from 18 to 21, to name a few.

[1]**Amicus Brief** – an opinion or information given in a court case from an outsider (a 'friend' of the court, not a witness)

[2]**Appellate Court** – the same as Court of Appeal. A court that provides a second opinion on a court case.

About MFOL

MFOL Board: 12 members, no hierarchy

MFOL Legal and Administration Team: 23 employees

MFOL fund raising: $5 billion through donations and Government grants

MFOL volunteer network: provides aid and support to gun violence affected communities and **300** branches across America.

MFOL on-line and socials: https://marchforourlives.com/

Adapted from: https://marchforourlives.com and March-For-Our-Lives-2022-Impact-Report.pdf

Question 12 (10 marks)

a. Describe the stage that the 'March for Our Lives' movement is currently in. Use evidence from Representation 4 to support your response. 4 marks

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b. Comment, with reference to the work of Erica Chenoweth, on the effectiveness of the 'March for Our Lives' movement in creating social change. In your response, use evidence from Representation 4 to support your answer. 6 marks

Question 13 (10 marks)

Analyse how the use of power influenced the social change achieved by a social movement you have studied this year.

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