



NSW Education Standards Authority

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Centre Number

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Student Number

2025 HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

Society and Culture

**General
Instructions**

- Reading time – 5 minutes
- Working time – 2 hours
- Write using black pen
- Write your Centre Number and Student Number at the top of this page and page 9

**Total marks:
60**

Section I – 20 marks (pages 2–11)

- Attempt Questions 1–10
- Allow about 40 minutes for this section

Section II – 40 marks (pages 13–14)

- Attempt TWO questions from Questions 11–14
- Allow about 1 hour and 20 minutes for this section

Section I – Social and Cultural Continuity and Change

20 marks

Attempt Questions 1–10

Allow about 40 minutes for this section

Use the multiple-choice answer sheet for Questions 1–8.

Refer to the stimulus to answer Questions 1–3.

A researcher narrowed the focus of their investigation from ‘Childhood gaming’ to ‘Gaming negatively affects a child’s development and behaviour’.

- 1** In making this change, the researcher has
 - A. broadened the topic.
 - B. designed the research.
 - C. developed a hypothesis.
 - D. proposed sub-questions.

- 2** What is the next step for the researcher?
 - A. Commence focus groups with children
 - B. Draw conclusions from interviews with gaming experts
 - C. Complete an annotated reference list of secondary sources
 - D. Gather background information from academic journals and reference articles

- 3** What could the researcher do to demonstrate social and cultural literacy throughout the research process?
 - A. Appreciate that children display diverse values
 - B. Make judgements based on their own experiences
 - C. Permit participants to bypass age restrictions on gaming platforms
 - D. Communicate with game developers about the intention of the research

- 4 Which of the following best demonstrates the positive impact of power and gender on cultural continuity?
- A. Initiation ceremonies at a university are abolished because young males refuse to participate.
 - B. A female leader directs funds to community programs that focus on preserving national identity.
 - C. A primary school introduces a rule permitting all children to wear shorts as part of their new uniform.
 - D. Patriarchal social structures in rural communities restrict women from participating equally in family decisions.
- 5 Which of the following is an example of how modernisation has generated transformative change in society?
- A. Cost of living concerns have led to a rise in multigenerational households.
 - B. A supermarket chain has trialled customers receiving electronic receipts to reduce paper waste.
 - C. A government has passed a law allowing workers to take paid leave when undergoing fertility treatment.
 - D. Bans on youth access to social media have been reversed due to large scale resistance from technology companies.
- 6 Refer to the stimulus to answer Question 6.

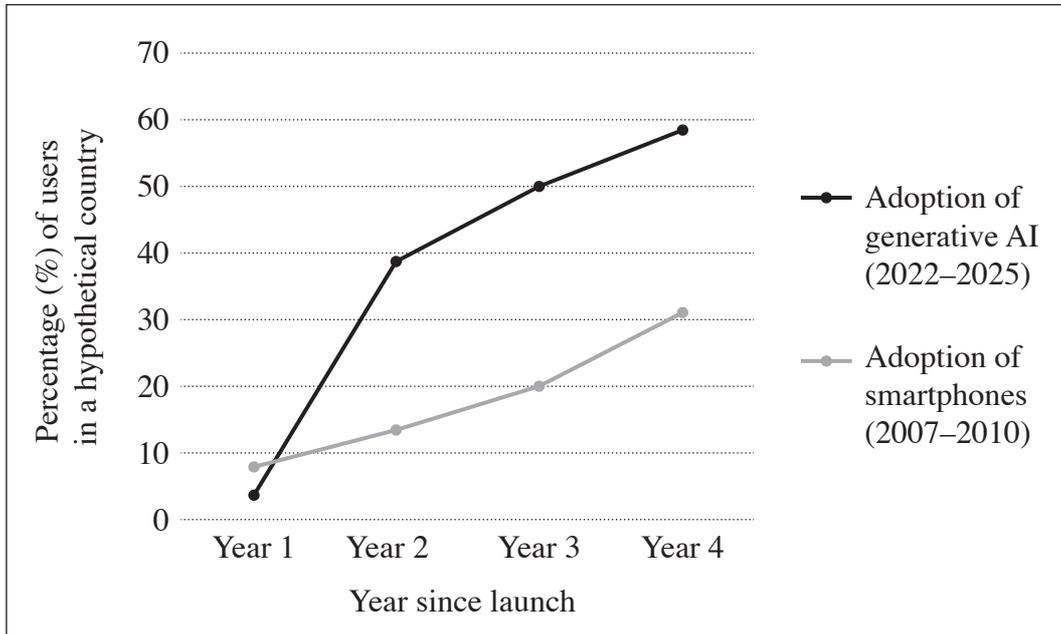
In 2024, there were over 160 anti-government protests worldwide, some of which occurred in the lead-up to elections. Protests focused on challenging current economic policies, anti-democratic practices, human rights abuses and inequality.

This reflects which social change theory and concept?

- A. Conflict theory and beliefs
- B. Conflict theory and tradition
- C. Functionalist theory and power
- D. Functionalist theory and empowerment

Refer to the stimulus to answer Questions 7–8.

Hypothetical data – adoption of generative AI* and smartphones



*Generative AI: artificial intelligence used to create new content in response to prompts by the user.

7 Which row of the table best reflects the concepts and level of society shown in the graph?

	<i>Concepts</i>	<i>Level of society</i>
A.	Technology, time and sustainability	Micro level
B.	Technology, modernisation and society	Macro level
C.	Technology, westernisation and tradition	Macro level
D.	Technology, globalisation and environment	Micro level

- 8 Which row of the table best represents a functionalist and evolutionary perspective of trends shown in the graph?

	<i>Functionalist Theory</i>	<i>Evolutionary Theory</i>
A.	The rise of AI provides stability to society and has a social purpose.	The widespread uptake of new technological tools within 4 years of release is inevitable and part of social progress.
B.	The slower uptake of smartphones in Years 2 to 4 allowed for the introduction of AI and increased complexity in society between 2010 and 2022.	The rapid rate of AI uptake between Years 1 and 2 is driven by changes in industry and meeting social needs.
C.	The high rate of AI use is perpetuated by centralised ownership and control of technology.	Both AI and smartphone technologies will continue to be embraced by people and this will increase over time.
D.	The slower rate of uptake for smartphones in Year 1 means that society is attempting to achieve a dynamic equilibrium.	The delay in technological innovation between 2010 and 2022 is due to the influence of restrictive traditional customs and practices.

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Section I (continued)

Attempt Questions 9–10

Answer the questions in the spaces provided. These spaces provide guidance for the expected length of response.

Question 9 (4 marks)

Explain the value of research in understanding societies and cultures. Support your response with a contemporary example.

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Society and Culture

Section II – Depth Studies

40 marks

Attempt TWO questions from Questions 11–14

Allow about 1 hour and 20 minutes for this section

Answer both questions in the Section II Writing Booklet. Extra writing booklets are available.

Your answer to part (b) of the question will be assessed on how well you:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding relevant to the question
 - apply course concepts and language appropriate to the Depth Study
 - analyse relationships within and between social and cultural groups
 - present a sustained, logical and cohesive response
-

Please turn over

Question 11 – Popular Culture (20 marks)

- (a) Why is the construction or deconstruction of gender important in the evolution of ONE popular culture? Support your response with a relevant example. **5**
- (b) To what extent has ethnicity and location influenced the consumption of ONE popular culture? **15**

Question 12 – Belief Systems and Ideologies (20 marks)

- (a) How is meaning created for adherents within belief systems and ideologies? Support your response with a relevant example. **5**
- (b) Evaluate the impact of secularisation on the acceptance or rejection of ONE belief system or ideology. **15**

Question 13 – Social Inclusion and Exclusion (20 marks)

- (a) Why is social mobility important in achieving equality? Support your response with a relevant example. **5**
- (b) Evaluate the impact of socioeconomic status on access to technology for ONE group. **15**

Question 14 – Social Conformity and Nonconformity (20 marks)

- (a) How is individual obedience influenced by authority and the environment? Support your response with a relevant example. **5**
- (b) To what extent is society's perception of ONE group influenced by deviance and stereotyping? **15**

End of paper