



### Section A

Answer Question 1.

- 1 The term 'life cycle' is used to refer to the different stages of life. This idea implies there are set patterns through which individuals pass. Sociologists, such as Parsons, believe that people pass through a universal life cycle with each individual experiencing the same stages. These stages relate to age groups, with each age group having specific social roles and expectations.

Other sociologists, such as Pilcher, do not agree that there is a universal life cycle. Instead, she uses the term 'life course' which has given rise to *life course analysis*. Pilcher argues that stages in the life course, such as childhood and old age, are socially constructed. This means that the life course may be experienced in different ways in different societies. For example, in some societies old age is given higher status than in others. The life course may also be experienced in different ways within the same society.

- (a) Define the term *life course analysis*. [2]
- (b) Describe **two** social roles associated with young people. [4]
- (c) Explain why old age is given higher status in some societies than in others. [8]
- (d) Assess the view that childhood is socially constructed. [11]

### Section B

Answer **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

- 2 Explain and assess the view that cultural factors are the main influence on family structure. [25]
- 3 Explain and assess the view that gender no longer influences the roles performed within the family. [25]



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