PRIFYSGOL ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY

SEMESTER ONE EXAMINATIONS 2026

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND EARTH SCIENCES

GS09720: Introduction to Social Science

Time allowed: 2 HOURS

Seen Exam

Students may take in one side of type-written notes on A4 paper as per the guidance provided by the Module Co-ordinator.

Answer TWO Questions

EACH QUESTION IS WORTH 50%

STUDENTS MAY SUBMIT ANSWERS TO THIS PAPER IN EITHER WELSH OR ENGLISH

Once seated, students may complete the front cover of the answer book(s) and the attendance slip ONLY.

DO NOT TURN THE EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER OVER UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO DO SO.

1. Outline the key differences between essentialism and social constructivism. Your examples should refer to either race, gender, or another social construct of your choice. [50%]

2. Define Bourdieu's theory of social reproduction, and using examples, reflect on how it contributes to understandings of class. [50%]

3. With reference to examples, critically evaluate two or more theories that have challenged how we understand gender. [50%]

4. We can define 'Social control' as a response to 'deviant' behaviour. Define deviance and critically evaluate practices of social control which seek to regulate such deviance. [50%]

5. What is the 'social contract'? Your answer should refer to the work of Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean Jacques Rousseau. Explain the key differences between the three thinkers. [50%]

6. Situating the event in wider historical context, discuss to what extent does the Battle of the Beanfield represent a criminalising of dissent? [50%]

7. Define 'racial science' and critically reflect on its relationship to European imperialism. [50%]

8. With reference to two or more examples, critically evaluate to what extent can Strain Theory and Labelling Theory be used to explain the links between socio-economic status and crime? [50%]

9. Critically explore hegemonic and inclusive masculinities as examples of socially constructed gender. [50%]

END OF PAPER