In most societies women make up most of the population. However, all over the world women are treated differently from men. As a result, there is gender inequality and discrimination in the world’s most developed countries. In Malta there is the tendency that women do more unpaid or unregistered work than paid labour. Women earn less money than men and are much less likely to be in decision-making positions whether in politics or in the workplace. At present only 31% of Malta’s workforce is female, the lowest in the EU, while in Latvia and Lithuania this rate reaches 50 percent – the EU’s highest. Like Hungary, Malta has only 10% in female representation in the national parliament, while Sweden’s representation reaches 49% (Eurostat 2008). Gender and education are the two main reasons that have brought down Malta’s Human Development Index ranking. In fact, only 35% of working-age women are in the workforce, the lowest in the EU. Denmark has the highest rate with 73%.

Adapted from Social Transitions in Maltese Society by J. Cutajar and G. Cassar (2009)

Questions

1. Explain the following:
   a) gender inequality, and
   b) discrimination. (4)

2. Why are women treated differently from men? Give TWO examples. (2)

3. What is the percentage rate of women in Malta’s workforce? Give TWO reasons why this is low when compared to that of Latvia and Lithuania. (3)

4. Which country in the European Union has the highest rate of female participation in the national parliament? Give TWO reasons why this is so. (3)

5. What can be done in the education system to raise awareness about gender equality? (4)

6. By means of TWO examples describe the traditional role of women. (2)

7. More women are leaving their traditional role and finding paid employment. Name TWO positive effects and TWO negative effects of this development on the family. (8)

8. Maltese law has been updated so as to implement gender equality. Does this feature in the Maltese way of life? Explain by giving TWO examples. (4)

(30 marks)
Section B: Read carefully the following passage and then answer in detail ALL the questions that follow:

There are many reasons why certain countries are poor or less economically developed than others. It is important to understand poverty because it is at the root of many of world problems. The world’s most developed countries, which may have played a part in causing some of this poverty, have an important role in helping to reduce it. There is the tendency that those people living in rich western countries always view the negative aspect of the developing countries, and so form wrong impressions about the people living in them. They are often considered as victims, backward or old-fashioned and unable to solve their own problems. These images are misleading. Not everybody is poor in developing countries. It is often the case that, whilst one part of a country is poor, there is relative prosperity in another.

Adapted from Citizenship Studies (2006), p. 197

Questions

1. Give FOUR reasons why certain countries in the world are poor. (4)

2. Name TWO characteristics of developed countries and TWO characteristics of developing countries. (4)

3. What can the richer countries do to help developing countries? Illustrate your answer by giving FOUR examples. (4)

4. Mention and explain TWO advantages and TWO disadvantages of globalisation. (8)

5. The world is becoming increasingly interdependent. What does this mean? Give THREE examples. (5)

6. Explain briefly what is meant by global development. Illustrate your answer by giving THREE examples. (5)

Section C: Write a paragraph of about 150 words on ONE of the following:

1. What is urbanisation? Discuss briefly by mentioning some advantages and disadvantages. (15 marks)

2. What are social groups? Discuss by giving examples. (15 marks)

Section D: Choose ONE of the following titles and write a composition of about 200 - 250 words:

1. The population in Malta, relative to its size, is considered to be very high. Explain this statement and discuss its effects on the Maltese way of life. (25 marks)

2. Along the years there developed different forms and styles of youth groups which could easily be identified by their appearance. What do you understand by youth culture? Mention and explain THREE examples of such groups. (25 marks)

3. The educational system prepares students for the world of work by providing them with the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes. Discuss. (25 marks)