

Sociology GCSE Course Outline – Year 10

(Students follow the AQA Sociology (8192) course)

Listed below are some of the key questions studied for each topic

1. The sociological approach

- What is Sociology?
- What are the key debates within sociology?
- What are the key ideas of the classical sociologists Durkheim, Marx and Weber?
- What are the key ideas of the different sociological perspectives such as Feminism, Functionalism, Interactionism and Marxism?



2. Families

- What is a family?
- What are the functions of a family?
- How do family forms differ in the UK and within a global context?
- What types of family diversity are there?
- How do the Functionalist/Marxist/Feminist perspectives view the role of families?
- What were conjugal roles and relationships like in the past?
- What is the symmetrical family? Is the Symmetrical family a reality or myth?
- How is power distributed between partners in relationships?



- What are the changing patterns of marriage and divorce?
- What are the consequences of divorce

3. Sociological research methods

- How do sociologists go about their research? What is the process involved in research design?
- How can you evaluate different quantitative and qualitative methods of research?
- How useful are different types of data?
- What are primary and secondary sources of data?
- What practical, ethical and theoretical issues arise during the research process?
- What are the links between Sociology, social problems and social policies?



4. Education



- What are the different views of the role and functions of education?
- How does the Functionalist/Marxist Perspective view the role of the education system?
- What are the different types of school?
- What are the types of alternative education?

Key Skills: AO1: Knowledge and Understanding, AO2: Application, AO3: Analysis and Evaluation

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4. Education continued



- What factors affect educational achievement?- class, gender and ethnicity
- What processes within school affect educational achievement?
- What external factors affect educational achievement?
- What are the patterns of gender and subject choice?
- What changes have there been in Government policies in education?

6. Social stratification:



- What is social stratification?
- How does the Functionalist, Marxist and Weber view social class?
- How is class measured?
- What are life chances?
- What is social mobility?
- What inequalities are based on gender/age/ethnicity/class?
- What is poverty?
- How do sociologists measure poverty?
- How do sociologists explain poverty?
- What is the welfare state? What is power?
- What are the different forms of power and authority?
- What factors affect power relationships including social class, gender, Sexuality, race, age, disability, religion and beliefs
- How do Feminists/Functionalist/ Marxist view power relationships?
- What methods are used to research social stratification?

Key Skills: AO1: Knowledge and Understanding, AO2: Application, AO3: Analysis and Evaluation

5. Crime and deviance

- What is meant by crime and deviance?
- How does Functionalism, Marxism/Feminism/ Interactionism explain crime and deviance?
- What is the difference between formal and informal social control?
- What factors affect criminal and deviant behaviour? including social class, gender, ethnicity and age.
- What is the role of the mass media in the process of deviancy amplification?
- What sort of crime related issues cause public debate? – violent crime, prisons and punishment
- What methods are used to research crime and deviance?
- What are the main sources of data on crime?



Assessment: There are two papers examined at the end of the course in Year 11. Both papers make up 50% of the total marks. Each exam is 1 hour and 45 mins long. They consist of multiple choice questions, followed by a range of short and extended responses .**Paper 1: The Sociology of families and education**

Paper 2: The Sociology of Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification