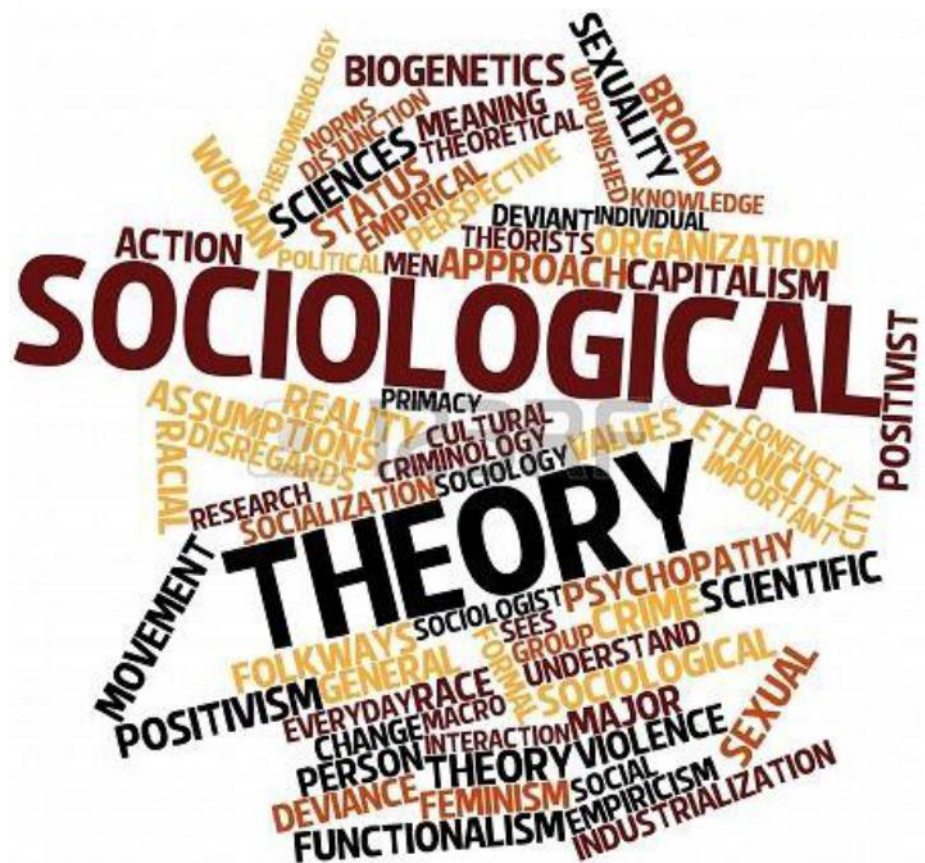


# Introduction to

## A-Level AQA

### Sociology

### Summer 2022



**These activities are designed to give you a flavour of sociology, and to start developing your ‘sociological imagination’. Complete as many of the activities as you can, so that you have a head-start and also to see whether sociology is the subject for you. Keep everything in a folder, either on your computer, or in paper form, as it will help you when we start the lessons in September.**

## **There is no coursework in Sociology**

Students sit exams at the end of Year 13. AQA Sociology A-level is a linear course. Year 12 helps you develop the key critical skills, thinking and social comprehension. Whereas as Year 13 allows you to practice these skills and complete your Sociological Imagination. We focus particularly on how certain features of a person’s social position (i.e. their gender, social class and ethnicity) might affect their LIFE CHANCES in society. Sociology is regarded as a Social Science, largely because it uses a number of research methods to examine society in more detail. A major part of gaining success in Sociology is by learning the main ideas, concepts and terms used – the language of the subject – and then being able to use this language when you are discussing the topics and issues relevant to the study of society.

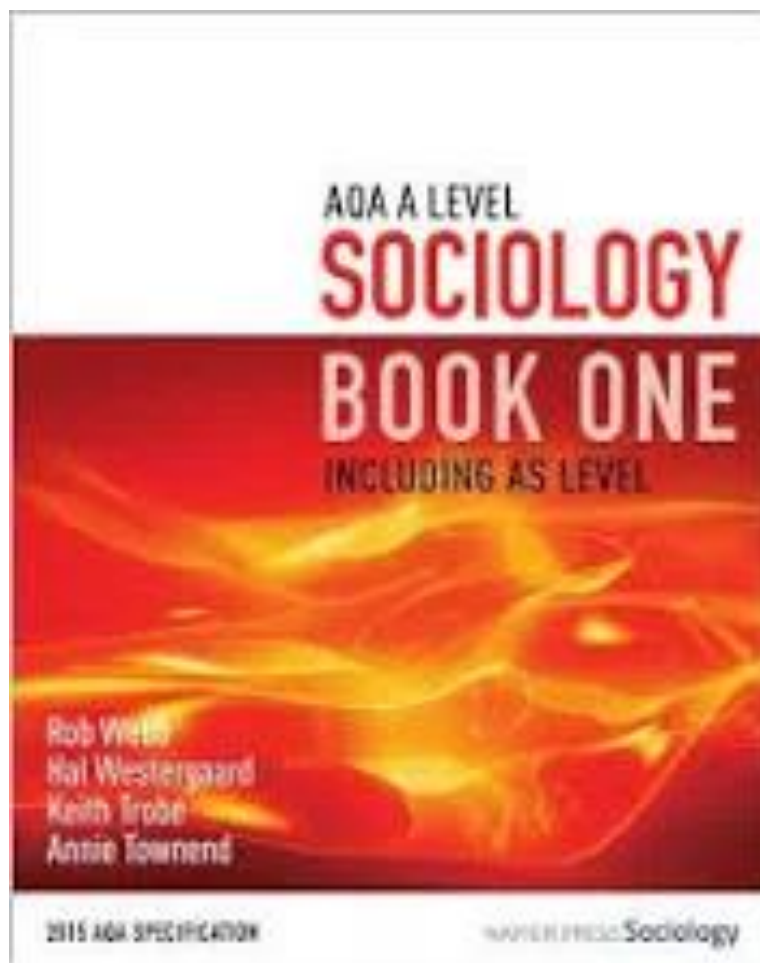
These are the topics we cover:

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
Education Methods in Context Theory and Methods - 33% of A Level	Families Global Development - 33% of A Level	Crime and Deviance Theory and Methods - 33% of A Level



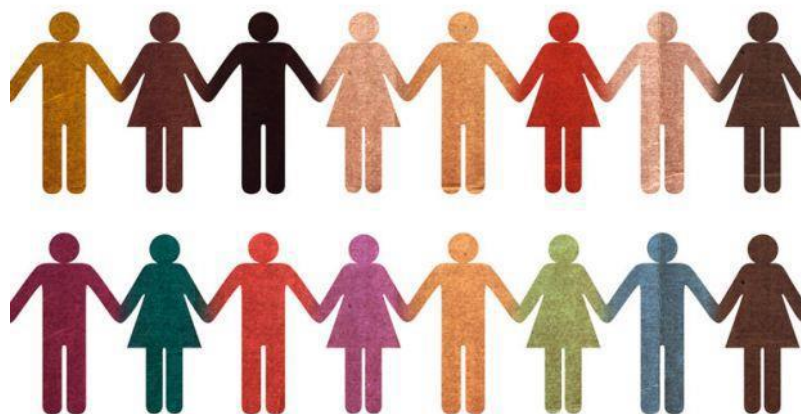
## TEXTBOOKS

Some of you have asked about textbooks. You will be able to use school ones in the class but not to take home. If you want to buy your own, these are the ones I recommend. However, scanned chapters will be available on line so you don't have to buy one.



## Websites:

- AQA Specification –  
<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192/introduction>
- AQA - Example Assessment Material -  
<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192/assessment-resources>
- S-Cool Revision Materials - <http://www.s-cool.co.uk/alevel/sociology>
- Every Day Sexism Project -  
<http://everydaysexism.com/index.php/about>
- He for She Campaign - <http://www.heforshe.org/>
- <https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/reference>  
<http://politybooks.com/kenbrowne/resources.asp>
- <https://napierpress.com/book-one-workbooks>
- <https://napierpress.com/book-two-workbooks>
- <http://www.earlhamsociologypages.co.uk>
- <https://www.sociologystuff.com>



# Sociology is...

- 1.The study of society, large groups of people and individuals.
- 2.It studies how and why people behave the way they do in society.
- 3.Looks at how structures such as family and Government influence human behaviour.
- 4.A social science which uses research to investigate and predict human behaviour to help governments improve the lives of its citizens.
- 5.A critical and radical subject, it is about questioning why society is as it is. It is about digging under the surface, looking at what is really going on.

# Sociology is not ...

- ❑ An easy subject
- ❑ Just common sense
- ❑ Wishy-washy and unscientific
- ❑ Psychology

## **Task 1**

**There are a lot of key terms that you need to know and to make sure you write great essays! These are the basics:**

**Define the following sociological key terms:**

1. Norms
2. Values
3. Status
4. Role
5. Socialisation
6. Primary Socialisation
7. Secondary Socialisation
8. Society
9. Culture
10. Identity
11. Sex
12. Gender
13. Race
14. Ethnicity
15. Social Differentiation
16. Stratification
17. Subculture
18. Cultural Diversity
19. Consensus
20. Conflict

Use the following websites to help you:

<https://quizlet.com/5561246/sociology-key-words-flash-cards/>

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology>

<https://revisesociology.com/>

<https://www.sparknotes.com/sociology/glossary/terms/>

**For each of the key terms add a picture and an example to go with them**



## Task 2:

As a sociology student you will also be expected to keep up to date with the news and current events – research a social issue that interests you!

1. Explain what and why that particular issue interests you.

2. Create a media collage of articles on your issue and annotate them.

3. Are there any laws which deal with your issue? Name and explain them! How successful are they?



### Task 3: How do **you** see society?

Draw a model of how you view society (use shapes / key words / images where possible)

Provide a written explanation of your work (**at least** a side of A4) to explain what you have done.

Include what you see as the main issues/ problems/ solutions you feel as a society we face and why!





## Task 4: Observing

Watch the film *Educating Rita* on youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4z8OcnIWU-Y>.

Write a sociological review of the film, commenting on what it tells us about social class, gender roles and education.

What did you think of the key characters, Rita, Frank and Rita's husband Denny?

How do their social backgrounds influence their behaviour?



## Task 5: Reading

Read this article on 'The Lost Boys':

<https://www.newstatesman.com/politics/education/2016/09/lost-boys-how-whiteworking-class-got-left-behind>

Create a table of all the reasons why white working-class boys are failing at school. One column should be headed 'factors inside school' (e.g. interactions with teachers, peer group etc) and the other 'factors outside school' (e.g. poverty at home, wider community).



## Task 6: Analysing

Watch these two adverts for McCain chips, one from the 1990s and one from 2017:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9R\\_QrbLDiw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9R_QrbLDiw)

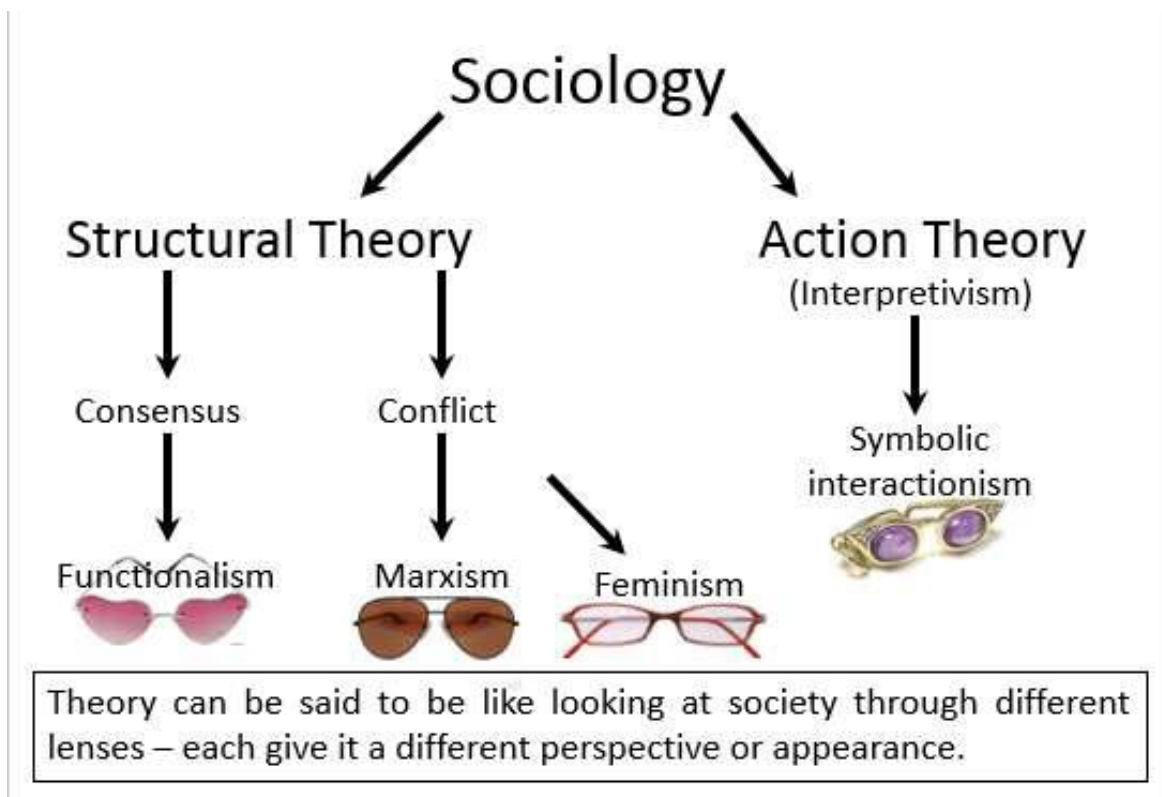
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJ9fjN1az9g>

Create a similarities and differences chart showing how family life has changed over this time period.

Do some further research to suggest why these changes in family life have taken place. See the list of websites earlier on.



# Theory is a big part of sociology!!



There are a lot of words above that you will not be familiar with – but do not worry. When we start the lessons it will all become very clear.

# What kind of sociologist will you be?



1. The defining characteristic of human behaviour is:
  - A) Their gender/ sex
  - B) Their social class
  - C) Their Race
  - D) Their integration into society
  - E) Their culture
  
2. We have the freedom to choose our own behaviour
  - A) Yes
  - B) No
  - C) Depends
  - D) Doesn't matter
  - E) What is freedom?
  
3. What are your views on the family....
  - A) Family is oppressive to women and teaches us to conform to gender roles
  - B) Family is a tool of the ruling class teaching us to obey authority
  - C) Family is a vital part of socialisation that teaches us norms and values
  - D) Family is what you make it, everyone has a different view on it
  - E) Family – what is a family? You can't define it
  
4. When it comes to inequality
  - A) Gender is the most serious issue!
  - B) Money and power the rich exploit the poor!
  - C) Inequality is normal part of society
  - D) Inequality is a label that has different meanings to people
  - E) You make your own reality up
  
5. When it comes to Crime
  - A) The justice system is more lenient on women
  - B) Criminal laws protect the rich and powerful

- C) Crime is good for society as it reminds us of the rules
- D) Crimes are actions labelled as wrong to influence our behaviour
- E) Crime – what is a crime? Can we really define what a crime is?

6. When it comes to religion

- A) Religion oppresses and controls women – telling us to cover up and be obedient
- B) Religion is a tool used by those with power to control us
- C) Religion is a useful institution which unites people who share a common set of beliefs
- D) Religion means different things to different people
- E) Religion is just another meta-narrative (big story) people use to explain reality



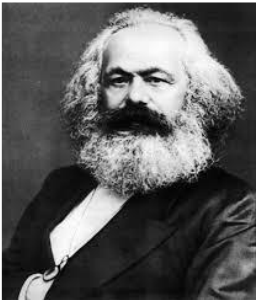
# What kind of Sociologist will you be?

## Mostly A – Our Feminist



You are most likely to turn into our Feminist Sue Sharpe. Feminism looks at how society is structured in a way that benefits men while oppressing women – this is known as patriarchy (male domination.). The theory is often a misunderstood as stereotypes and misconceptions about it exists. Many people do not realise that there are several types of feminism such as black, radical feminism and liberal.

## Mostly B – Our Marxist



You are most likely to turn into Karl Marx. Marxism looks at how society is constructed is a way that produces class conflict with the rich having all the power and control whilst the poor are oppressed. Marx argues that the root cause of class inequality is down to capitalism as it encourages people to be greedy and materialistic. Just as capitalism replaced feudalism, Marx argues that capitalism will one day be replaced with communism.

## Mostly C- Our Functionalist



You are most likely to turn into Emile Durkheim. Functionalism is theory which argues that members of society are united together by a shared set of idea and beliefs called 'norms' (normal behaviour.) These norms are accepted by all members in society and are enforced by structures such as family and education. They see society like a human body – with all parts needed in order for it to 'function' and work effectively.

## Mostly D- Our interactionist



You are most likely to turn into Becker/ Mead. Interactionism looks at how people create meaning during social interactions, how they present and construct the self (or identity) as well as how they define situations. One of the perspectives key ideas is that people act the way they do because of how they define situations. Becker uses the example of nudity to illustrate how timing, place and audience can influence how people see an action or idea.



### **Mostly E – Our post-modernist**

You are most likely to turn into Foucault. Post-modernism is a more recent Sociological theory which seeks to question and de-construct existing structures and understandings of reality. Post modernism rejects the idea that one theory such as functionalism, Utilitarianism, religion or even science can explain reality!

## **Task 8 Functional functionalists**

1. Write Definitions for Free Will and Determinism.
2. Research Functionalism and produce a fact sheet outlining the “Organic Analogy
3. Do some further research on Functionalism
  - Write a paragraph on the strengths on the theory
  - Write another on the weaknesses of the theory
  - Use the websites from earlier on or the text books if you managed to get hold of one



## Task 9 Feminists

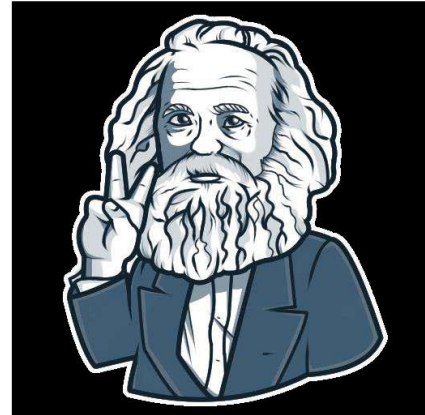
1. Research Feminism and produce a fact sheet outlining the definitions and provide examples.
2. Research @ or #EverydaySexism
  - What is the project?
  - What examples do they give of modern sexism?
  - Do you think sexism is still a problem today? Why?
  - Do ALL women have the experience? Explain your answer? Explain!
3. Research examples of gender inequality within the UK in contemporary society. Make a list.



## Task 10 Marxists

1. Watch YouTube clip:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vz3eOb6Yl1s>



2. Define all key words on the video clip.

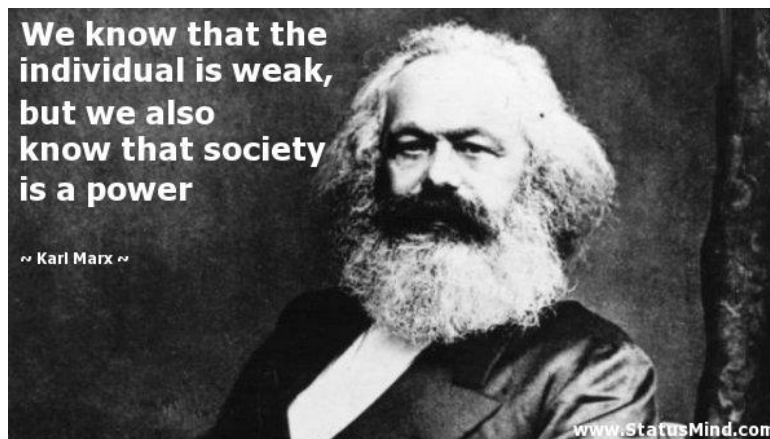
3. Research Marxism and produce a fact sheet outlining the difference between

the bourgeoisie and the proletariat.

4. Research examples of class inequality within the UK in contemporary Society.

5. Choose one of the examples and explain how a Marxist would interpret the situation

6. How would a functionalist counter this approach?



## Task 11 Social Action Theorists

Functionalism	Feminism	Marxism

1. Complete a Summary table for your notes outlining each approach and stating whether they are:

- **Consensus** or **Conflict Theories**
- **Macro** or **Micro Approaches**
- **Structural** or **Social Action**

Ensure that you define which words in bold go with which theory!

Add the strengths and weaknesses of each to the table too!

2. Watch the following you tube video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJrnwOPC2f8> Define Social Action Theorist approach to society.

3. Do you think we have free will within society? What perspective would Social Action Theorist take on this question?

4. How would a structuralist respond to the idea of free will? Do you agree? Explain



## Task 12 Postmodernism

1. Watch the following YouTube video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QqsP0vQJJ44>

Produce a factsheet outlining what post-modernism is and what it says about society

2. Produce a table outlining the differences between a modern and post-modern society. (you may need to do more research!)

3. Find examples of post-modern changes in society within the Media. For example Same Sex Marriages in the USA.

4. Do some further research on Functionalism

- Write a paragraph on the strengths on the theory
- Write another on the weaknesses of the theory

5. Out of the five theories you have researched - Which Sociological theory do you most and least agree with and why?

Explain your reasons in detail making sure you explain what it was about that particular theory (at least a side of A4)!





# Task 13

Read the following summaries of these 3 key sociologists on the Tutor2U website. Then create one of the following to illustrate their key ideas about how society works, either:

- A storyboard or cartoon, or
- A poster presentation

i) Karl Marx:

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/reference/classic texts-karl-marx-selected-writings-1857-1867>

ii) Emile Durkheim:

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/reference/what-isfunctionalism>

iii) Sylvia Walby:

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/reference/classic texts-sylvia-walby-theorising-patriarchy-1990>

C. Watch this revision video on sociological research methods:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a442lFMFWVA>

Create a big mindmap of all the different research methods discussed e.g. surveys, observation etc. For each one, write a short description of it, one advantage of the method and one disadvantage. Pick one methods that you could use to find out about young people's experiences of self-isolation during the Covid-19 pandemic, and write a plan for how you would go about it, and how you could record your results.

