

GCSE SOCIOLOGY - WEEK BY WEEK REVISION SCHEDULE (2026)



Paper 1: Friday morning – 8th May (1hr45)

Paper 2: Friday afternoon – 15th May (1hr 45)

- <https://www.tutor2u.net/live/archive?subject=sociology&level=gcse> – replay archive for live streamed interactive revision sessions covering all topics on the AQA specification
- <https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/collections> - collection of revision videos, study notes, MCQs and other support materials, by topic group
- <https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/store/student-revision-support?search=&level=2998&board=2993&sort=recent> – flash cards and revision guides here (can also be purchased on Amazon)

WEEK	TOPICS	RE-VISIT WORK	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES
WEEK 1 19 TH JAN	SOCIAL STRATIFICATION	• Consensus view on social stratification • Meritocracy and social mobility • Functionalist view – role allocation (Davies and Moore); need for inequality as a motivator • New Right view – underclass and culture of poverty (Murray).	• Summarise social mobility in 50 words • Create an acrostic of ‘meritocracy’ • Explain what Davies and Moore mean by role allocation – try to give at least 3 different jobs as examples • Write a speech that challenges Murray’s concept of the culture of poverty • 12 mark question: Discuss how far sociologists would agree that everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed in modern UK society
WEEK 2 26 TH JAN	SOCIAL STRATIFICATION	• Conflict views on social stratification • Marxist view of social stratification – false class consciousness; the myth of meritocracy • Feminist view – patriarchy (Walby) • Weber – power and authority •	• Draw a cartoon to illustrate ‘false class consciousness’ • ‘Meritocracy is a myth’ – argue both sides of this statement • Give 3 pieces of evidence to show that UK society is patriarchal • Explain the different types of authority that exist today, giving examples of each type of leader • 12 mark question: Discuss how far sociologists would agree that class inequality is a major issue in modern UK society.

WEEK 3 2 ND FEB	SOCIAL STRATIFICATION	• Studies – Townsend's Index of Deprivation and Devine's Affluent Worker • The extent of poverty • Class inequality and life chances • Gender inequality and life chances • Age inequality and life chances • Disability inequality and life chances • Sexuality inequality and life chances	• From memory list what was on Townsend's Index of Deprivation • Summarise Devine's Affluent Worker study in 100 words • Give 3 pieces of evidence that show that poverty is still a major issue in the UK today • A3 mind map of all the inequality that these groups face, with developed strands for how it will affect their life chances • 12 mark question: Discuss how far sociologists would agree that women have achieved equally in the workplace in the UK
WEEK 4 9 TH FEB	EDUCATION	• Different types of schools. • Marketisation – parental choice, league tables, Ofsted – what's the impact on this? Bowe, Ball and Gewirtz • Factors that affect achievement – social class, gender, ethnicity • Material and cultural factors that affect achievement (external factors) •	• Draw up a comparison table of the different types of schools • List the pros and cons of having state and independent schools • Draw a spiral of decline to show what happens when a school gets a bad set of exam results • Rank the material and cultural factors in order of how they affect achievement – annotate your reasons • 12 mark question: Discuss how far sociologists would agree that social class has the biggest impact on a student's educational attainment
WEEK 5 16 TH FEB	EDUCATION	• In school processes, eg. hidden curriculum • Labelling - pros and cons of this – self-fulfilling prophecy - Pygmalion Effect (Rosenthal and Jacobson's study) • Streaming/setting - Hargreaves and Ball - effects of this Anti-school subcultures - Paul Willis and his 'lads' study.	• Draw up a list of all the messages that are transmitted through the hidden curriculum • 'The school curriculum is ethnocentric' – argue both sides of this statement • Create 2 flow charts to show what can happen when students are labelled – for both positive and negative labelling • Draw up a pros and cons table of setting by ability • Summarise why some pupils form anti-school subcultures in 100 words. • 12 mark question: Discuss how far sociologists would agree that educational attainment is significantly affected by the groups they are taught in.
WEEK 6 23 RD FEB	EDUCATION	• Functionalist view of education - Parsons - schools as an agent of socialisation – achieved status and meritocracy; Durkheim - preparing students for life	• Create a 'Who said what?' poster about the named sociologists and their view of education - remember to add which branch of sociology they are from • Draw a cartoon to show achieved vs ascribed status according to Parsons

		• Marxist view of education - Bourdieu and cultural capital; Bowles and Gintis - Correspondence Theory – turning pupils into obedient workers • Feminist view of education - boys dominating spaces	• Make a comparison table of school and the workplace to illustrate Correspondence Theory • List 5 ways that boys dominate schools according to the feminist perspective • 12 mark question: Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the main function of education is to promote universal norms and values
WEEK 7 2 ND MAR	RESEARCH METHODS	• Stages of research design • Qualitative and quantitative data • Primary and secondary data • Data collection - questionnaires, interviews, observations (and different types) – strengths and limitations	• Create a cartoon strip to show the different stages of research design • Define qualitative quantitative, primary and secondary data – give at least 3 examples of each • Draw up a summary sheet for questionnaires, interviews and observations – include different types (if applicable), the strengths and weaknesses, and an example of a named study that has used that method
WEEK 8 19 TH MAR	RESEARCH METHODS	• Practical issues with research • Ethical issues with research • Reliability, validity and representativeness • Sampling types	• Create a mind map of the practical issues involved in research, think about issues when setting up the study, but also when collecting data • Summarise what informed consent is in 50 words • Produce an ‘The Only Way is Ethics’ sheet – imagine 3 different research scenarios and come up with a list of ethical issues for each one, and state how you would overcome them • List your top tips for making maximising reliability, validity and representativeness in sociological research
WEEK 9 16 TH MAR	SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH	• The main perspectives – functionalism, Marxism, feminism • Consensus vs conflict theories • Norms, values, culture, cultural diversity, status • Agents of primary and secondary socialisation • How we gain our identity (eg. gender identity)	• Create a key word glossary of all the terms from this unit • Summarise the 3 main sociological perspectives in 100 words • Create a consensus vs conflict acrostic • Make a revision mind map of all the ways we are socialised
WEEK 10 23 RD MAR	FAMILY	• Different types of family - nuclear, cohabitation, same-sex, lone-parent, extended and bean pole	• Create a memory quiz to test different family forms • Draw up a pros and cons table of the different family types within the UK and around the world

		• Different family types around the world - polygamy/ polyandry, arranged and forced marriage	• Sketch a cartoon to show family diversity according to the Rapoports • 12 mark question: Discuss how far sociologists would agree that support provided by the extended family is less important in UK society today
WEEK 11 30 TH MAR	FAMILY	• Functional view of the family - Talcott Parsons - warm bath theory; GP Murdock - 4 functions of the family • Marxist view of the family - Eli Zaretsky and capitalism influencing the family • Feminist view of the family - Ann Oakley - dual burden and triple shift; Delphy and Leonard	• Create a 'Who said what?' poster about the named sociologists and their view of the family - remember to add which branch of sociology they are from • Sketch a picture to illustrate the 'dual burden' • 12 mark question: Discuss how far sociologists would agree that families in modern Britain are patriarchal
WEEK 12 6 TH APR	FAMILY	• How has the family changed? • The New Right - declining family values • Increase in divorce/decrease in marriage - changing status of women and changes in law • Changing relationships - symmetrical family - Wilmott and Young	• Create a mind map to show all the reasons that divorce has increased • Create a spiral diagram to show the consequence of a decline in the nuclear family according to the New Right • Draw a cartoon strip to show the stages of family according to Wilmott and Young • 12 mark question: Discuss how far sociologists would agree that legal changes are the main reason that divorce has increased in the UK since 1969
WEEK 13 13 TH APR	CRIME AND DEVIANCE	• Difference between crime and deviance • Formal and informal social control • Role of the police and courts – criminal justice system. • Functionalist view of crime and deviance - Robert Merton - Strain Theory; Emile Durkheim and Anomie • New Right view of crime and deviance – lack of socialisation • Sub-cultural theories of crime and deviance - Albert Cohen and delinquent sub-cultures	• Create a 'Who said what?' poster about the named sociologists and their view of crime and deviance - remember to add which branch of sociology they are from • Draw up a list of all the methods of formal and informal control • Create a diagram to show the different layers of the criminal justice system and the powers they have to enforce law • Summarise the term 'collective sentiment' in 50 words • Create a cartoon to show responses to the American Dream and responses to strain according to Merton • 12 mark question: Discuss how far sociologists would agree that crime and deviance is necessary for society to function properly

WEEK 14 20 TH APR	CRIME AND DEVIANCE	● Marxist view of crime and deviance – capitalism and consumerism ● White collar and corporate crime ● Feminist view of crime and deviance - work of Frances Heidensohn (lack of opportunity) and Pat Carlen on social control of women Interactionist viewpoint – Howard Becker's work on labelling and master status	● Draw a triangle diagram to show the links between capitalism, consumerism and crime ● List as many examples of white collar and corporate crimes as you can – why do these often go unpunished? ● Create a mind map to show all the ways that women lack opportunities to commit crimes ● Explain why Carlen described female crimes as 'crimes of the powerless' ● Draw a flow diagram to show what happens when someone is labelled as a criminal ● 12 mark question: Discuss how far sociologists would agree that men are far more likely to engage in criminal behaviour than women
WEEK 15 27 TH APR	CRIME AND DEVIANCE	● Patterns of crime and deviance ● How does crime vary by gender, age, ethnicity, class, etc? ● How are crime statistics collected? ● Reliability of crime statistics	● Summarise in 100 words how criminal activity varies with age ● List all the reasons why many people believe that the police are institutionally racist ● Explain why ethnic minority groups are over-represented in the UK prison system ● 'Official crime statistics are reliable' – argue against this statement ● 12 mark question: Discuss how far sociologists agree that middle-class crime is much higher than official statistics suggest

WEEK BEGINNING 4TH MAY – SOCIOLOGY EXAMS BEGIN – GOOD LUCK!!!