

# Welcome to



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## **Preparation assignment for A-Level Sociology - Summer 2023**

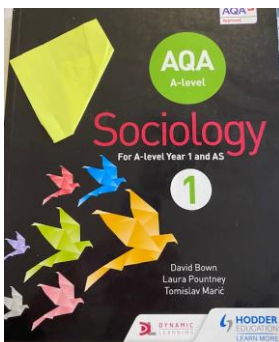
As you have not studied GCSE Sociology we'd like to help you get prepared for A-level with an assignment that is set for you to do three things;

- 1) To get you up to speed with core concepts occurring throughout the A-level units.
- 2) To encourage your sociological world-view
- 3) To give your teacher a sense of your commitment to this A-level.



Having said that – **it is not a test or anything requiring essays!** This is an opportunity to find out about key sociological ideas so that you will be able to proceed with the A-level with more confidence.

**Course Materials-** If you take Sociology it is advantageous to have your own textbook to use- this means you don't have to share a book in class and you can take it home to use for essays. The book I recommend for year 12 is below, (there is a different book for year 13).



AQA A Level Sociology For A level Year 1 and AS  
Author: David Bown and Laura Poutney  
ISBN: 978-1-4718-3939-9

Please remember, if you are eligible, you can apply for a bursary to cover the cost of books.

### **At the Heart of Sociology are three questions:**

**What is happening in society?** (***Social Research** – overlaps with geography, Politics, Psychology and Maths*)

**Why is it happening?** (***Social Theory** – overlaps with Politics, History and Philosophy*)

**What can be done about it?** (***Social Policy** – overlaps with Politics*)

**Note:** You do not need to print this booklet to do the work; however you might want to print it when you return to school and staple your answers to it. You may **type or handwrite** your answers to the tasks.

## What is sociology?

Sociology is the study of how people's lives are affected as a result of belonging to different social groups. We all belong to social groups. The main groups studied are:

- **Social class**
- **Age group**
- **Gender**
- **Ethnicity**
- **Sexuality**



Sociology is a **social science**, studied by *sociologists*.

This means sociologists **conduct research** to find factual evidence and patterns about how different groups in society behave. **For example;**

- *How the recent coronavirus epidemic affected people differently if they were middle or working class.*
- *Are women more likely to choose to not to marry than men?*

Sociologists come up with ideas – **theories** – **to try and explain these patterns of behaviour**. Also, they do research **to try and find evidence that backs-up their theories**.

This means that as sociologists we are **not giving our opinion** of what we think should or should not be happening in society or whether it is fair or unfair – we are understanding, analysing and evaluating the evidence and the theories.

### Core Concepts

Sociological theories are usually of two types:

1. **Social processes** - the behaviour of people in different groups is the result of what they have learned from family, school, peer groups, media etc.
2. **Social structure** - the behaviour of people in different groups is the result of how society is organised and the position of groups in society.

The study of sociology has core concepts – important basic ideas – that relate to both social processes and social structure. These core concepts have to be known and understood in order to make sense of and discuss the research evidence and theories of sociologists.

### **Important core concepts:**

- **Culture**
- **Socialisation**
- **Social Class**
- **Gender**
- **Ethnicity**
- **Sociological perspectives**



**Possible Sociology revision / education sites to explore for research and help include:**

- Tutor 2 U
- Revise Sociology
- The Teacher Sociology
- The Sociology Guy

They have websites, you tube channels, twitter pages and Instagram pages.



**Your Summer Tasks:**

**1. A) - Introduction – What is Sociology**



We will start the course by exploring what actually IS Sociology?

It is defined as the 'study of society, people and behaviour' but what does that mean? To help do this, watch these clips and make some notes about each video.

<p><b><u>if the hyperlink doesn't work copy and paste into a new browser window.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Use the statements in the last column to help you phrase your response:</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Some statements to help you make notes:</u></b></p>
<p><b>Clip 1</b> – Watch this 5 minute video about 'What is Sociology'  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LK5J0-cM-HE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LK5J0-cM-HE</a>            Or use QR Code:</p> 	<p><b>Whilst you watch it is useful to analyse, and this can be done through statements such as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I noticed...</li> <li>• I have realised...</li> <li>• I was surprised</li> <li>...</li> <li>• I begin to understand...</li> <li>• I Love the way...</li> <li>• I am not sure about...</li> <li>• A question I have...</li> </ul> <p><b>The last one is very important as you will not always have the answers BUT you can always ASK QUESTIONS!</b></p>
<p><b>Clip 2</b> – Watch this 5 minute video from the London School Of Economics explaining why Sociology is essential from a University perspective.  <a href="https://youtu.be/7ZJIFxDavpc">https://youtu.be/7ZJIFxDavpc</a> or USE QR Code below</p> 	

**Clip 3** – Watch this 3 minute clip about gender made by Always called #likeagirl

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

or use QR code:



**Clip 4** – Watch this 4 minute clip about privilege and inequality called *'Explaining privilege to children through a race'*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9tqaOUGt5A>

Or use QR code:



**Task 1B**

Each group of statements represents a sociological theory or viewpoint. Say which **ONE statement out of each group** you agree with and **give reasons why** you have chosen it.

**Group A Statements:**

- 1) Men dominate.
- 2) Gender inequalities exist.
- 3) Women are systematically disadvantaged.
- 4) All men hate women some of the time. Some men hate women all of the time.
- 5) Women are those that are depending on all of the time for all of the tasks.

I agree with statement .....

because:

.....

.....

**Group B Statements:**

- 1) Society exists in a state of balance.
- 2) Society works for the benefit of all.
- 3) Structures in society exist to help people and the smooth operation of society.
- 4) We live in a democracy.
- 5) People are judged only in terms of their merit / skills / intelligence.

I agree with statement .....

because:

.....

.....

**Group C Statements:**

- 1) Life is unfair.
- 2) People are not paid enough.
- 3) The world is run for a very small group of people.
- 4) Most people cannot see that they spend their entire lives being exploited.
- 5) Our current system for organising the economy does not work.

I agree with .....

Because .....

.....

## Task 2 -Key Sociological Ideas

### Socialisation

**2a) Watch the video below and make notes:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3YCYM3u3A&list=PLp8BSCLLWBUD7\\_mPr623xSIjLW7Tdi8ex](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3YCYM3u3A&list=PLp8BSCLLWBUD7_mPr623xSIjLW7Tdi8ex) or



**Q2b)** What is meant by **socialisation**?

There are two types of socialisation:

- 1) Primary socialisation**
- 2) Secondary socialisation**



**Primary socialisation** takes place in the early years – mainly within the family.

**Secondary socialisation** takes place later in wider society – such as in school, with peer groups, the media or in the work-place.

**Q2c)** Make a list of three ways of behaving that family would usually socialise their children to have:

<b>Q2d)</b> Make a list of <b>one</b> norm or value that people may be socialised to have that could be learnt from:
a) School:
b) Teenage peer-group:
c) Media:

Socialisation is reinforced by the use of **sanctions**. These may be applied by parents, schools, the workplace or the legal system.



<b>Q3)</b> What do sociologists mean by sanctions?
<b>Q4)</b> Give an example of a <b>positive sanction</b> that could be used by family with a young child as part of <b>primary socialisation</b> :
<b>Q5)</b> Give an example of a <b>negative sanction</b> used as part of <b>secondary socialisation</b> :

### **Social Class**

In the UK people belong to a social class although they may not know it; although it is slightly more complicated than the list below the **crude assumptions made by the media** and society are that people belong to the following social classes:

- **Working class** - low skilled or skilled manual work (eg cleaner / plumber)
- **Middle class** - highly trained 'professions' (eg doctor / lawyer)

- **Upper class** - often inherited wealth, those with no need to 'work'.

**The majority of people are either working or middle class.** Some researchers argue that class no longer exists, but the idea of social class is used by many and they nearly all agree that **the class a person belongs to can affect their life-chances**

**These days official documents and organisations aim to base someone's social class on their education, job, level of responsibility and status – not just income and job;** this has meant an increase in the number of classes - we will cover this in class in September.

### Q6)

Watch the video lined below and make notes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ME7JE4FT-5g> or



### Gender

This Video may help and you may want to make more detailed notes-

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fOxMWHqfB18&list=PLp8BSCLLWBUD7\\_mPr623xSljLW7Tdi8ex&index=13](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fOxMWHqfB18&list=PLp8BSCLLWBUD7_mPr623xSljLW7Tdi8ex&index=13) or



A person's gender is their biological sex as male or female (or what they choose to identify as).

**Sociology focuses on the roles and norms that are expected** of people as a result of their gender. Sociologists consider the norms and roles expected of males and females to be a **social construct** – a set of ideas that do not exist in nature but has been created by society.

**Q7)** List three types of behaviour that families socialise girls to have:

**Q8)** List three types of behaviour that families socialise boys to have:



**Q9)** Give **two** ways schools have expectations of boys that is different from girls:

## **Ethnicity**

This Video may help and you may want to make more detailed notes-

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VTTpYsBrL0Y&list=PLp8BSCLLWBUD7\\_mPr623xSljLW7Tdi8ex&index=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VTTpYsBrL0Y&list=PLp8BSCLLWBUD7_mPr623xSljLW7Tdi8ex&index=1)  
**2 or**



**Q10) Ethnicity** is NOT race or skin colour.  
What does ethnicity mean in Sociology?



**Q11)** Britain is a multicultural society. What does this mean? Use examples if you can.

**Q12)** White British is the ethnic *majority*. What are the two largest **ethnic minority groups** in the UK?

## **Sociological Perspectives – This might be more challenging but it is expected that you know this to access A level Sociology.**

Some sociologists seek to explain society by looking at how it is structured. These views of society are called sociological perspectives; the main perspectives are:

- **Functionalism**
- **Marxism**
- **Feminism**



## To help with the questions below you could use the following websites-

- <https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/collections/introduction-to-a-level-sociology> (Scroll down to find the appropriate video for the theory) or use this QR code:



- <https://revisesociology.com/2016/07/05/sociological-perspectives-the-basics/>
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-83vVeSC2\\_g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-83vVeSC2_g)
- <https://sociologytwynham.com/2013/06/28/social-theory/> (also has some video links on it to make this easier).
- <https://revisesociology.com/2017/02/03/feminist-theory-summary-sociology/>
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSQgCy\\_iIcc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSQgCy_iIcc)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D6DI-9pSW-4>

**Functionalism** - Functionalism sees social structure or the organisation of society as more important than the individual. Functionalism is a top down theory. Individuals are born into society and become the product of all the social influences around them as they are socialised by various institutions such as the family, education, media and religion. A founding father of Functionalism is Emile Durkheim.

**Q13)** How do functionalists see society?

According to **Marxists** society is divided into just two classes that are in conflict:

- a) the **bourgeoisie** – **The wealthy upper classes who own the businesses and means of production.**
- b) the **proletariat** – **the workers and employees of the bourgeoisie.**



Karl Marx (the first Marxist), argues that society is in conflict. He says there are two social classes, the minority capitalist class or bourgeoisie and the majority working class or proletariat. The bourgeoisie own the factories and businesses and exploit the proletariat by making them do all the work and not paying them much. We will study this in much more detail but the main idea is that there is conflict between the two social classes

**Q14)** a) Explain why Marxists believe these two groups are in conflict:

B ) In your opinion is Marxism a useful theory in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?

Feminists agree that there is conflict between groups in society; they say the conflict is between men and women. **Feminism** causes great confusion and misunderstandings in society. In Sociology we look at it from 2 ways – it is a social movement that advocates for economic, political, and social equality between women and men and as a theoretical perspective debating if women are uniquely and systematically oppressed in different societies and situations.

There are many different Feminist theories about how society works and how it should change.

**Q15)** There are many different Feminist groups; from your research identify some of them and note the basic aims of Feminism.

**A) Types of Feminism:**


B) Basic aims of Feminism.

C) Are Feminist Theories useful in 2023?

### **Task 16 - Key Words**

As part of the introductory task in the summer term you were asked to find out meanings of key words so for this task you may not need to find out all of them, only the ones that are new.

You may want to use the following website to help -

([http://higheredbcs.wiley.com/legacy/college/browne/0745691307/glossary/student-resources-glossary\\_a1.html](http://higheredbcs.wiley.com/legacy/college/browne/0745691307/glossary/student-resources-glossary_a1.html))

Remember if you are using google to ensure you understand the meaning and write it in your own words.

Key term	Meaning
Bourgeoisie	
Capitalism	
Confluent love	
Discrimination	
Feminism	
Institutional racism	
Marxism	
Patriarchy	
Postmodernism	
Proletariat	
Racism	
Social Class	

Social consensus	
Social Control	
Social Institutions	
Status	

### **Task 17 - Contemporary Issues**

Sociologists are very interested in National and Global issues and therefore it is important to always watch the news. Recently there have been news stories regarding censorship of books in the USA.

#### **Complete some research on this and answer the following:**

- A. What is censorship of books?
- B. Why have books been censored/ banned in America?
- C. Name some books that have been banned and why?
- D. Over the summer choose one of the books that has been banned and read it- write a summary of your view on the book.

Links that may help with this research but an interesting and high achieving student will go further than this. Don't forget to say where you found your sources.

<https://www.bbc.com/culture/article/20230525-how-book-banning-escalated-in-the-us>

[Top 100 Most Banned and Challenged Books: 2010-2019 | Advocacy, Legislation & Issues \(ala.org\)](#)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFi\\_gsTFmzA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFi_gsTFmzA)

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

#### **For your first lesson... We expect you to have the following:**

- A level arched folder – labelled with your name on and Sociology (spelt correctly).

- There must be dividers in your folder – plastic ones are better as they are tougher.
- Your own lined paper
- A pencil case with the usual but we use a lot of post-it notes and highlighters so have plenty of those.
- A copy of the Year 1 textbook
- Your Summer homework from this booklet- handwritten or typed

**Well done! You're all set ready to embark on your Sociology A Level course. We look forward to seeing you in September!**