

Subject: Sociology

Level: A Level Exam Board: AQA



Sociology is the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behaviour. Sociologists investigate the structure of groups, organizations, and societies, and how people interact within these contexts.

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods

Education

We study :

- the role and functions of the education system, including its relationship to the economy and to class structure;
- differential educational achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity in contemporary society;
- relationships and processes within schools, with particular reference to teacher/pupil relationships, pupil identities and subcultures, the hidden curriculum, and the organisation of teaching and learning;
- the significance of educational policies, including policies of selection, marketisation and privatisation, and policies to achieve greater equality of opportunity or outcome, for an understanding of the structure, role, impact and experience of and access to education; the impact of globalisation on educational policy.

Theory and Methods

We study :

- research methods;
- consensus, conflict, structural and social action theories;
- the concepts of modernity and post-modernity in relation to sociological theory;
- the nature of science and the extent to which Sociology can be regarded as scientific;
- the relationship between theory and methods;
- debates about subjectivity, objectivity and value freedom;
- the relationship between Sociology and social policy.

Paper 2: Topics in Sociology

Families and Households

We study :

- the relationship of the family to the social structure and social change, with particular reference to the economy and to state policies;
- changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation, divorce, childbearing and the life course, including the sociology of personal life, and the diversity of contemporary family and household structures;
- gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships within the family in contemporary society;

- the nature of childhood, and changes in the status of children in the family and society;
- demographic trends in the United Kingdom since 1900: birth rates, death rates, family size, life expectancy, ageing population, and migration and globalisation.

Global development

We study :

- development, underdevelopment and global inequality;
- globalisation and its influence on the cultural, political and economic relationships between societies;
- the role of transnational corporations, non-governmental organisations and international agencies in local and global strategies for development;
- development in relation to aid and trade, industrialisation, urbanisation, the environment, and war and conflict;
- employment, education, health, demographic change and gender as aspects of development.

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods (4.3)

4.3.1 Crime and Deviance

We study :

- crime, deviance, social order and social control;
- the social distribution of crime and deviance by ethnicity, gender and social class, including recent patterns and trends in crime;
- globalisation and crime in contemporary society; the media and crime; green crime; human rights and state crimes;
- crime control, surveillance, prevention and punishment, victims, and the role of the criminal justice system and other agencies.

4.3.2 Theory and Methods

We study :

- research methods;
- the relationship between positivism, interpretivism and sociological methods; the nature of 'social facts';
- the theoretical, practical and ethical considerations influencing choice of topic, choice of method(s) and the conduct of research;
- consensus, conflict, structural and social action theories;
- the concepts of modernity and post-modernity in relation to sociological theory;
- the nature of science and the extent to which Sociology can be regarded as scientific;
- the relationship between theory and methods;
- debates about subjectivity, objectivity and value freedom;
- the relationship between Sociology and social policy.

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Assessments

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods	Paper 2: Topics in Sociology	Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods
What's Assessed Compulsory content 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3	What's Assessed Section A: one from Option 1: 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.3 or 4.2.4 Section B: one from Option 2: 4.2.5, 4.2.6, 4.2.7 or 4.2.8	What's Assessed Compulsory content 4.3.1, 4.3.2
Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 hour written exam• 80 marks• 33.3% of A Level	Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 hour written exam• 80 marks• 33.3% of A Level	Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 hour written exam• 80 marks• 33.3% of A Level
Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education: short answer and extended writing, 50 marks• Methods in Context: extended writing, 20 marks• Theory and Methods: extended writing, 10 marks	Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section A: extended writing, 40 marks• Section B: extended writing, 40 marks	Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crime and Deviance: short answer and extended writing, 50 marks• Theory and Methods: extended writing, 30 marks

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