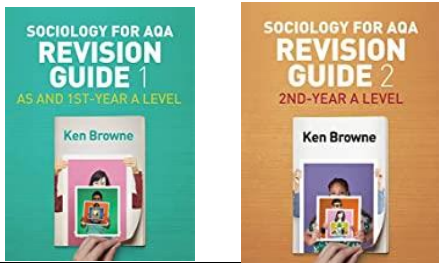


# A Level Sociology

Key information:

Specification	AQA Sociology - <a href="https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192">https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192</a>
Useful revision guides	
Useful websites	<a href="https://revisesociology.com/">https://revisesociology.com/</a> <a href="https://www.s-cool.co.uk/a-level/sociology">https://www.s-cool.co.uk/a-level/sociology</a> <a href="https://studywise.co.uk/a-level-revision/sociology/">https://studywise.co.uk/a-level-revision/sociology/</a> <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/uk">https://www.theguardian.com/uk</a> <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/">https://www.bbc.co.uk/</a> <a href="https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology">https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology</a>

Introduction tasks:

## 1) Society

The social world is changing. Some argue it is growing; others say it is shrinking. The important point to grasp is: society does not remain static over time; it constantly changes – through decades, centuries; and across countries, societies. Answer the following questions:

- Give 3 different ways society has changed over the last 100yrs – think about the different areas of social life and work.
- Why has society changed? Why are societies different?
- Research the 3 main political parties – Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat: What are their main ideas? How are they different?
- If you were in power, what would your first four items be on your agenda? What would you hope to do?

<https://www.parliament.uk/about/mps-and-lords/members/parties/>

<http://simplepolitics.co.uk/questions-and-answers/who-are-the-parties-and-what-do-they-stand-for>

## 2) What is sociology?

- Watch the video clip on YouTube: What is Sociology? Crash Course Sociology <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnCJU6PaCio> and make notes on what you understand about Sociology.
- Find the definitions for the following key sociological terms:
  - Socialisation (primary socialisation and secondary socialisation)
  - Norms
  - Values
  - Beliefs
  - Culture

- Social Class
- Gender
- Ethnicity

### 3) Sociological theories

A theory is something that explains the relationship between two or more things. When we talk about sociological theories we are talking about the particular way those sociologists try to understand human social behaviour.

Use the internet to find out about the main sociological theories. For each one explain the main idea and concepts and the key sociologists:

- Functionalism
- Marxism
- Feminism
- Action Theories
- Postmodernism
- Which sociological perspective do you agree with? Why?

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuualjXtMJ-AfB\\_7J1538YKWkZAnGA](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuualjXtMJ-AfB_7J1538YKWkZAnGA)

<https://revisesociology.com/sociology-theories-a-level/>

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/topics/group/theory-methods-key-terms>

### 4) Families & Households

Use the internet to research the patterns and trends over the past 50 years or so for the following. You then need to think of 3 reasons for these patterns and trends.

- Marriage rates
- Divorce rates
- Cohabitation rates (people living together who aren't married)

### 5) Education

Using your own knowledge and the internet to answer the following questions.

- Sociologists are interested in the role and function that the education system plays for society. Write a short paragraph explaining what you think its role/function is. Think about what education may teach us that isn't the curriculum and what might happen in society if we didn't have an education system. Try and use as many key terms as possible such as norms, values and socialisation.
- Statistics show that girls outperform boys at GCSE. Can you think of reasons as to why this might happen? For example, how might the way we socialize children impact GCSE performance? How might interactions in school with teachers and peers impact GCSE performance?
- Statistics also show that students from poorer backgrounds do less well at GCSE compared to students from a wealthier background. Can you think of reasons as to why this might happen?
- Statistics further show that students from certain ethnic minority backgrounds underachieve. Sociologists have suggested that this is because the school system is ethnocentric. Find a definition for "ethnocentric" and put it in your own words. Can you think of an example as to how the school system might be seen as ethnocentric?

- Sociologists are also concerned with how education differs around the world. PISA is an assessment taken across a range of countries by 15 year olds which covers reading, maths and science. Using the links below find out where the UK is ranked. Choose one country that performs better and research its education system. List the similarities and differences between our education system and theirs. Write a short paragraph explaining why sociologists and educationalists would be interested in making these comparisons.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-50563833>

<https://www.tes.com/news/pisa-education-rankings-how-did-uk-perform>