



Thomas Telford UTC
AN EXCITING NEW COLLABORATION FOR
WOLVERHAMPTON

AQA
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Welcome to



As most of 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 teachers a sense of your commitment to this A-level.



Having said that – **it is not a test or anything requiring essays or pages of work!** This is an opportunity to find out about key sociological ideas.

It is not an assessment!

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



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:

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

<https://revisesociology.com/>

<https://sociologytwynham.com/>



A-level Sociology

Questions

Culture

Q1) Explain what is meant by **CULTURE**

Culture means:



Examples: eating with a knife and fork, saying 'thank you', sending children to school.

Norms: behaviour that is expected in situations

Values: principles or goals that are seen as good in that culture (e.g. honesty; hard-work).

Q2) Make a list of **three things** that you think are part of 'British' culture:

1

2

3

Q3) Give two **norms** of behaviour connected to Christmas:

1

2

Socialisation

Q4) What is meant by socialisation? (Make sure you give a sociological definition)



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.

Q5) Make a list of three ways of behaving that family would usually socialise their children to have:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Q6) Make a list of **one norm or value that people may be socialised to have that could be picked-up from:**

a) School:

b) Teenage peer-group :

c) Media:

