

Sociology Revision

Key vocabulary

Paper 1
Unit 1 – Key Concepts

Key Term	Definition
Achieved Status	A position earned or merited, such as teacher or doctor.
Agencies of socialisation	Groups which pass on the norms, values and culture of a society. For example, family, education, media, religion, peer groups and work.
Ascribed status	A position born you are into, such as the Queen.
Canalisation	The channelling of children towards toys and activities seen as appropriate for their sex. For example, girls will often be given dolls to play with as this is to prepare her for motherhood.
Culture	A shared, learned way of life. This includes language, traditions, beliefs, norms and values.
Ethnicity	The cultural group a person belongs to. It might come from their nationality, religion, language and/or way of life.
Ethnic minorities	Groups within society who have different national or cultural traditions from the main population, for example Asian, Indian or Polish.
Feral children	A human child who has lived isolated from human contact from a very young age and so has not gone through the process of socialisation. They have had little or no experience of human care, behaviour and languages. For example, Oxana who was raised by dogs and so began acting like one such as walking on all fours.
Formal Curriculum	The set of subjects taught in a school, such as maths, history, sociology or PE.
Gender	The norms and expectations of how to act, linked to whether you are male or female. Gender is not the same as biological sex.
Hidden Curriculum	The messages and ideas pupils pick up at school throughout the days that are not taught as part of the official curriculum. For example, following authority and being obedient.
Identity	How you see yourself and how other people see you. Your identity is made up of social class, gender, ethnicity, and religion.
Media	An agent of socialisation. It includes TV, Newspapers, magazines, websites, social media, radio and anything that sends messages to a mass (large) audience.
Norms	The expectations or rules for how someone should behave in a particular situation. For example, in the UK it is a norm to eat with a knife and fork.
Peer group	A group of people who are of similar age and usually have similar interest.
Role	The part played by someone or something in a particular situation. For example, the role of mother, wife, teacher.
Role conflict	A situation in which a person has to play two different roles with competing expectations. A football coach for example might suffer role conflict if forced to drop his son or daughter from the team.
Sanctions	Positive or negative actions taken to encourage people to follow social norms, rules and laws. For example, a formal (official) negative sanction could be a fine for breaking a law.
Social construction	Something that is shaped and created by society. I.e. gender, childhood and crime.
Social control	The way which social order is kept in society and without it society could become chaos.
Socialisation	The process of learning norms and values.
Subculture	A small group within society with its own norms and values. For example, hippies and chavs.
Values	What people in society see as important and worth working towards. For example, in the UK there is a value placed on health and wealth as seen with the creation of the NHS.
Wealth	The amount of possessions a person has which they do not need in their daily lives, such as savings, property and expensive jewellery.

Paper 1
Unit 2 – The Family

Key Term	Definition
Arranged marriage	A marriage in which the bride and groom are chosen for each other by their families.
Beanpole family	A particular type of vertically extended family with up to four generations living together or nearby, but with few children, making them appear long and thin in structure.
Blended/ reconstituted/ step family	A family made up of one or both partners with children from a previous marriage or relationship living with them. The new partners might go on to have their own children together.
Boomerang family	Grown up children who return to live with their parents as a result of the break-up of a relationship or because they can't afford to rent or buy a house. E.g students returning home after university.
Breadwinner	The person who earns money to support the family, often the only earner.
Cohabitation	A domestic arrangement in which a couple are living together in a relationship as partners, but are unmarried, they may have children together.
Conflict theory	A view of society that sees a struggle between different groups for control. Marxism and Feminism are two of the best examples of this.
Conjugal role	The roles of men and women or same-sex partners in a marriage or other partnership in the home.
Consensus theory	The idea that the people in society share a set of beliefs and values. Functionalists believe that this is the case.
Crisis of masculinity	Male insecurity regarding their identity, believed to be caused by the reduction of traditional male jobs and the increase in more independent women.
Divorce rates	The number of divorces per thousand marriages per year.
Domestic abuse	Controlling or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between people who are or have been partners of family members. The abuse can be physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or financial.
Dual Burden	The situation for women in which they go out to work and still take on the main responsibility for the housework and childcare. When emotional work is included this become a <i>triple shift</i> .
Emotion work	The management of feelings and emotions in the home and listening to and sorting out personal problems.
Extended family	A family that consists of relatives in addition to the immediate family, who live together or nearby. This could be vertical or horizontal.
Feminism	A conflict theory which sees society as male dominated (a patriarchy) and wants to change this.
Household	The house and the people living inside it, a household is not always a family. A person living on their own or with friends or flatmates is considered to be living in a household, rather than a family.
Lone parent family	A family arrangement consisting of one parent (mother or father) with their dependent children. Over 90% of lone parent families are headed by the mother.
Monogamy	Men and women can legally only have one marriage partner at a time. Serial monogamy refers to people who have multiple divorces and remarriages throughout their life.
New Man	A new set of ideas about being masculine which appeared in the 80s and 90s. For example, new men were seen to be more emotionally aware and could be involved in childcare.
New Right	A theory linked closely to functionalism. The New Right are concerned that society has lost traditional values and think that individuals should take responsibility for themselves.
Nuclear Family	A family type consisting of two parents (heterosexual) and their children.

Patriarchy	A male dominated society: men are in charge and expected to be in charge of important decisions.
Polygamy	A marriage where one partner is legally allowed to marry several partners at the same time.
Sandwich generation	Middle aged or older people (usually women) who act as carers for their elderly parents while at the same time providing help and support to their children.
Secularisation	The decline in the importance of religion.
Symmetrical family	A family where male and female roles are similar but not identical. Both partners contribute to the home and both partners are committed to the family. A family based on equality and shared roles.
Welfare state	The idea that the government should look after its people in terms of education health and wellbeing.

Paper 1
Unit 3 – Education

Key Term	Definition
Academies	A new type of school designed to raise standards in low income urban areas by replacing poorly performing secondary schools. Academies are financed by central government and sponsors- individual businesses, religions and charities.
Cultural capital	A term created by Pierre Bourdieu referring to advantages that parents can pass on to their children in the form of knowledge, resources and lifestyle choices which help their children to be successful.
Equal opportunities	The idea that everyone should have the same chances of health, wealth and success.
Formal curriculum	The set of subject taught in a school, such as history, sociology and PE.
Gendering of subjects	The presentation of some subjects as either more suitable for girls or for boys. Physics, for example, used to be presented as boys subject.
Hidden curriculum	The messages and ideas pupils pick up at school throughout the day that are not taught as part of the formal curriculum.
Independent schools	Schools independent from government control and finance; pupils pay to attend . Private and public schools are independent.
Institutional racism	Where an organisations culture and methods of operating are found to be racist throughout.
Labelling	Term associated with Interactionists. Often done by a person of higher status and power, attaching a category, type or image to a person. It can have a powerful effect and the label might become accurate. When a person starts to believe their label this can create a <i>self-fulfilling prophecy</i> .
Material deprivation	Being without goods that you would expect to have in your house, for example a TV, your own room, a laptop.
Meritocracy	A system in which people are rewarded for their ability and hard work by gaining the best jobs, wealth and/ or status.
Pupil Premium	Extra money per head for pupils eligible for free school meals from poorer homes. Used to encourage the best schools to attract pupils from poor areas, and to provide extra money to help improve the education of the most disadvantaged.
Role allocation	The way in which jobs are given to people in society. In the UK many jobs are filled based on educational qualifications.
Social capital	The advantages that middle class parents have, such as knowledge of the school system and the ability to negotiate with teachers.

Paper 1 & 2
Research Methods

Key Term	Definition
Closed Questions	Question that only allow fixed responses such as yes and no, you do not have the option to explain your choice or write an extended response.
Covert observation	A study where a researcher is secretly watching a group. This will often produce results which are high in validity.
Ethics	Moral principles, the beliefs about what is right and wrong. Your research should always try to keep participants (the people you are researching) safe and from any physical or mental harm.
Gatekeeper	People that allow researchers access to a sample of people who would otherwise be difficult to study. For example, Tim was the gatekeeper in James Patrick's research of a Glasgow gang.
Hawthorne Effect	This is when the participants in your research change their behaviour as they know they are being watched. This is likely to occur with an overt observation and will reduce the validity of your research.
Hypothesis	A prediction. This is a statement or theory that is tested by your research. For example when researching teenage attitudes towards video games, your hypothesis might be that teenage boys have a more positive attitude towards video games than girls.
Interview bias	The negative effect that the interviewer has on the respondent's answers.
Open Questions	Questions that allow the respondent to answer in detail and as fully as they wish.
Overt observation	Research where the observer is known by the group and they know they are there to watch the group.
Pilot study	A small scale/trial run before full research is carried out.
Primary data	Information the researcher has collected themselves.
Qualitative data	Research data that is in words and has lots of detail, helping to understand feelings and meaning behind a person's actions. You will often collect this data during observations.
Quantitative data	Statistical data that is in numbers and can be presented as graphs and percentages. This is useful to identify patterns and trends. You will often collect this data during questionnaires.
Quota sample	A sampling method where the researcher looks for a certain number of people from particular groups.
Reliable data	Research results that can be repeated and compared in other situations. Questionnaires will often provide high validity.
Respondent	A person who completes a questionnaire.
Response rate	The percentage of the sample that participates in the research.
Representative sample	A sample that aims to have the same mix of people as the target population.
Secondary data	Information used in research that was originally used or collected by somebody else for another purpose. For example, government official statistics.
Stratified random sample	A sample chosen by chance, but making sure that important groups are included.
Structured interview	Where the interviewer sticks to a list of pre-planned questions.
Systematic sample	Sampling method using a system where, for example, every tenth name on a list is chosen.
Triangulation	Taking two different measurements of the same thing to make sure that the results are accurate i.e. a questionnaire and interview.
Unstructured interview	Where an interview is more free-flowing like a normal conversation.
Valid data	Research results that get close to the truth of what is happening, and are useful and trustworthy. For example, covert observations tend to have high validity.

Paper 2

Unit 1 – Social Stratification

Key Term	Definition
Absolute poverty	When a person does not have basic needs such as food, water, shelter, clothing and other essentials.
Ageism	Prejudice or discrimination on the grounds of a person's age.
Authority	Having the <u>power</u> or the <u>right</u> to give orders or make decisions.
Biological Age	Refers to how old a person seems . This focuses on both physical and mental stages of development i.e. puberty.
Bourgeoisie	The word Karl Marx used to describe the ruling class. The ruling class were the people who owned large businesses.
Capitalism	Societies like the UK and USA where businesses are owned by individuals. People are paid wages to work for other people.
Chronological age	The way we measure age from the day a person is born up to present time. Chronological age decides many aspects of your life i.e. when you start school, leave school, get married etc.
Class Consciousness	The proletariat (working class) become aware of their exploitation (that they are being taken advantage of). According to Marx, once this happens, the proletariat will fight back.
Closed System	This means you live in a system where you cannot change your social position in society. You cannot work your way up to the next level. Within a closed system, your status we ascribed .
Communism	An idea of running a society with greater equality here wealth and possessions are shared. Businesses are owned by the community.
Culture of poverty	The way of life for the poor. New Right sociologists blame this culture for the poverty of the underclass.
Deprivation	Being without the things that are expected in society.
Disability/disabled	A person is classes as disabled when they are unable long term to do everyday tasks as well as other people, due to physical or mental impairment.
Embourgeoisement	Refers to the way the working classes are becoming more middle class as their norms and values as their incomes and standards of living improve.
Ethnicity Pay Gap	The difference in average hourly pay between different ethnic groups .
False Consciousness	The proletariat (working class) are unaware of their exploitation.
Gender Discrimination	The idea that men and women are treated unfairly within society. This is often associated with gender roles.
Gender Pay Gap	An unfair pay difference in which women on average are paid less than men.
Glass Ceiling	An invisible barrier preventing women from reaching the top positions in society. It is in fact discrimination in the form of sexism holding women back according to feminists.
Income	Money which people receive regularly in the form of wages, benefits, pensions or other sources.
Inequality	The situation where some people have <u>more wealth</u> and <u>better opportunities</u> and might be seen as <u>more important</u> than others.
Life Chances	The opportunity to achieve and obtain (get) the things we enjoy in life i.e. good health, nice car, house, holidays etc. and avoiding the unpleasant things.
Market position/ Situation	Refers to how much money you can earn.
Masculinity	Refers to the qualities, character and behavioural traits expected of men.
Matriarchy	A female dominated society.
Meritocracy	A society based on equal opportunities. Therefore, people can create their own success through hard work and effort.

Open System	This means you live in a system where you can change your social position. This type of system has opportunity and social mobility. You can move up and down in society. Within an open system your status is achieved .
Patriarchy	A male dominated society
Power	The ability of a person or group to get what they want and influence decisions.
Prejudice	To pre-judge someone before getting to know them. This tends to happen based on sex, race, disability, age and class.
Privilege	Refers to unearned benefits given to a particular group based on their position within a social hierarchy. For example, young, white, middle class men are privileged in the UK. Generally they do not encounter discrimination or sexism.
Proletariat	The word Karl Marx used to describe the working class. This would include people who worked for someone else.
Race	Refers to one's biological characteristics for example the colour of your skin.
Relative poverty	Being poor compared with other people. For example, families without television or internet access could be seen as living in relative poverty.
Role Allocation	The way in which jobs are given to people in our society. In the UK many jobs are filled based on educational qualifications.
Social Construct	A concept created by society. For example, age is a concept created by society. What it means to be a child, adolescent, adult, elderly changes from time to time and place to place. It is not always based on biology.
Social Mobility	This refers to the movement up and down the social class scale or ladder.
Social class	Refers to a way of dividing people into groups. This is usually based on their occupation (job). In the UK there are three main social class groups that Sociologists refer to. The upper, middle and working class.
Social Stratification	Refers to the way different groups of people are placed at different levels in society. It's the way people are placed in a hierarchy based on wealth, status and power.
Status	Refers to respect and importance. We may respect and listen to certain individuals in society because we view them as superior.
Stereotype	An exaggerated simplified, often negative view of a group or 'type' of person.
Underclass	A group that is lower in status than the working class, for example homeless people and other disadvantaged groups.

Paper 2
Unit 1 – Crime & Deviance

Key Term	Definition
Anomie	A situation when social norms have broken down.
Anti-social behaviour	Actions that are not necessarily against the law but break social norms and rules and are a nuisance to other people.
Bribery	Giving people money in return for them breaking the rules when they are in a position of trust.
Chivalry thesis	The idea that women are treated more favourable by the police and other people in authority.
Community policing	A style of policing in which police officers are highly visible and interactive with people in an attempt to build good relationships with the community as well as proving a deterrent to crime.
Conviction rates	The number of people charged and found guilty of a crime.
Corporate crime	Crime committed by big business.
Cyber crime	Crime committed using computer technology.
Delinquency	Anti-social behaviour committed by young people.
Demonisation of women	The idea that women are treated more harshly by the media when they have committed certain crimes that go against the ideas of femininity. E.g crimes against children.
Fraud	Crime involving telling lies or giving false information.
Hate crime	An offence committed against certain or groups because of ethnicity, race, religion or sexuality.
Hidden figure of crime	All the crime that is not known about by the police and government.
Institutional racism	Where an organisations culture and methods of operating are found to be racist throughout. The Macpherson Report after the murder of Stephen Lawrence found the police force was institutionally racist.
Judiciary	The legal organisations that enforce the law.
Legislation	Laws that are passed by the government.
Master status	A label that is the most important fact that people notice about a person.
Moral Entrepreneur	A person, group or organisation with the power to create or enforce rules & impose their morals, views & attitudes on to others e.g. Politicians, Teachers, Parents, Religious Leaders.
Moral Panic	The media exaggerating a problem to make it appear as a threat to the whole of society. People or groups affected by moral panics might become feared by society. For example, Stanley Cohen's research of the mods and rockers in the 1960s.
Negligence	In business, this is when a company does not keep the public or its workers safe through a lack of care. For example, Merlin (the company who own Alton Towers) were found guilty of negligence after the Smiler crash.
Occupational crime	A crime connected to your job.
Propaganda	Information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view
Recorded crime	Crime that has been officially logged by the police.
Reported crime	Crime that the police have been told about.
Scapegoat	People who are wrongly blamed for society's problems. Ethnic minority groups often experience scapegoating.
Self-report study	Research that asks people about the crimes they have committed.
Strain theory	Robert Merton's idea that the pressure to succeed in society is what leads people to turn to crime.

Typical offender	The stereotypical image of a person who commits crime. E.g male and working class.
Victim study	Research that finds out about crimes from the victims.
White collar crime	Offences committed by the middle classes, usually linked to their jobs.
Zero tolerance policing	A style of policing which is severe on the smallest crimes to prevent bigger ones from happening.