

Study guide: AS Sociology

Sociology is the study of diverse factors influencing group behaviour and life in modern society. Sociologists observe relationships between social institutions and human action that affect our lives. Such institutions include the family, education, the police/judiciary, the media, religion and politics. In particular, Sociology is often characterised with describing and explaining patterns of inequality, deprivation and conflict, which are a feature of almost all societies.

You will develop the essential knowledge and skills to apply theories and concepts revolving around the topic on family and education in AS Sociology, supported by extended **reading, writing and study skills** outside of classes which will enhance your analytical and evaluation skills.

| Area of study | Details of study |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Families and Households | You will study how ideas of what constitutes a family have changed over time and space. You will also study power relationships and inequalities in different family structures |
| Education with Methods in Context | You will examine the role of the education system and assess the extent to which the education system is meritocratic or reproduces and reinforces inequalities. |

AS topics in Sociology

Below is a guide to the recommended reading list, resources and study skills to help you engage with the topics during your lessons.

Recommended reading list

Browne, K. (2008) *Sociology AS for AQA [3rd ed]*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Browne, K. (2008) *An Introduction to Sociology [3rd ed]*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Giddens, A. (2009) *Sociology [6th ed]*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Haralambos, M & Holborn, M. (2008) *Sociology Themes and Perspectives [7th ed]*. London: Collins.

Moore, S; Aiken, D. & Langley, P. (2010) *Sociology for AS*. London: Collins.

Webb, R. et al. (2008) *AS Level Sociology [2nd ed.]*. Brentwood: Napier Press.

Webb, R. et al (2015) *AQA A- Level Sociology Book one: Including AS-Level*. London: Napier Press.

Useful websites

<http://www.revisesociology.com/good-sociology-sites>

<http://www.s-cool.co.uk/a-level/sociology>

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/reference/what-is-the-family>

<https://sociologytwynham.com/2013/06/13/family-and-households-overview/>

Newspapers

As Sociology students you are encouraged to read broadsheet newspapers regularly to stay informed about current social and political affairs in society, which can help to motivate you throughout the course. The Guardian, Independent and The Times newspapers can be downloaded free of charge for iPhones or Android devices.

Study skills

You should take an **active** study approach that helps you to develop the skills needed to prepare you for your lessons and exams.

- Understand keywords/ concepts definition – create a Sociology glossary (definitions are invaluable in exams and there are always marks available for defining your terms)
- Make short-hand notes summarising what you have read
- Create mind-maps or knowledge organisers to visually help you to structure, organize, memorize, arrange and learn information in a highly specialized way
- Rephrase what you have read in your own words but accurately
- Apply concept/ideas to topics and real-life examples
- Come up with examples of your own
- Look for ideas/concepts that are opposites or complementary
- Compare and contrast ideas and theories