

Skills in Sociology

A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY

Starter – Match the definition

Socialisation	The ideas and self-concepts of a group or society in a particular place and time, passing from one generation to the next.
Culture	The rules or expectations that determine and regulate appropriate behavior within a culture, group, or society
Norms	A belief, ideal, or principle that a person or group has that determines what is correct, desirable, and proper.
Values	The process of an individual or group learning the expected norms and customs of a group or society through social interaction.
Identity	An individual's internal perception of their role in society

The Big Question: How to achieve an A* grade in Sociology

Identify ways to record definitions of key terms

Develop ways to organise your learning

How to apply ideas to questions in sociology

Analyse key concepts and develop analytical skills

Illustrate how to evaluate explicitly, by juxtaposition and through debate

Write short, sophisticated and confident conclusions

E



A*

Content

- ▶ Session 1 – Creating a glossary of key terms and how to take notes
 - ▶ Online glossaries
 - ▶ Key Terms within notes
 - ▶ Methods of notes taking
- ▶ Session 2 - Applying knowledge and understanding to questions
 - ▶ How to make notes on application
 - ▶ Using mark schemes and indicative content
 - ▶ Using model answers

Content

- ▶ Session 3 – Analysing sociological research
 - ▶ Developing a sociological imagination
 - ▶ Storyboarding
 - ▶ Mind-mapping
- ▶ Session 4 – Evaluation and conclusion
 - ▶ Evaluating the debate
 - ▶ Evaluating a contribution
 - ▶ Bringing in the contemporary
 - ▶ Finding the middle ground

Session 1

Identify ways to record definitions of key terms

Develop ways to organise your learning

Creating a Glossary of key terms

- ▶ It is important to understand the key terms in sociology even though there are no questions asking you to define key terms at full A level. Understanding what the key terms mean gives you confidence to express yourself in the certainty that you know what you are talking about.
- ▶ It is also necessary when answering questions to show an examiner you know what the key terms mean, It also helps with the skill of application – as knowing what cultural capital or material deprivation are enables you to use them in questions appropriately.
- ▶ There are some useful online glossaries that already exist:
 - ▶ <http://sociologydictionary.org>
 - ▶ <https://revisesociology.com/sociology-concepts-definitions/>

How to create your own glossary

- ▶ From notes highlight key terms that you do not understand
- ▶ Use sociological websites to look up these key terms
- ▶ Organise them by topic:
 - ▶ Education
 - ▶ Theory and Methods
 - ▶ Family
 - ▶ Crime
 - ▶ Global Development

Note taking - methods

- ▶ <https://www.goconqr.com/en/examtime/blog/4-note-taking-strategies/>
- ▶ <https://www.facebook.com/buzzfeednifty/videos/10155688194143958/>

Cornell Method

- ▶ This method of note taking was devised for students at Cornell University in the USA
- ▶ This format is often suggested to students who need to produce summaries of key ideas
- ▶ It is particularly useful for taking notes from lectures
- ▶ It ensures that you actively engage with the material, and aids recall
- ▶ It can be very useful when it comes to preparing and revising for exams

CORNELL METHOD NOTETAKING
IS SO EFFECTIVE OMG WHY WEREN'T WE TAUGHT THIS IN STUDY SKILLS
by lavidapoliglota.tumblr.com

~2 inches

2. THIS IS THE RECALL COLUMN
As soon as possible after lecture, review the notes column, take main ideas, key concepts, and important facts and write them in the recall column

1. THIS IS THE NOTES COLUMN
During lectures, note main ideas and concepts. Don't mindlessly copy - rephrase what you can to retain information

Skip one line between ideas,

several between topics

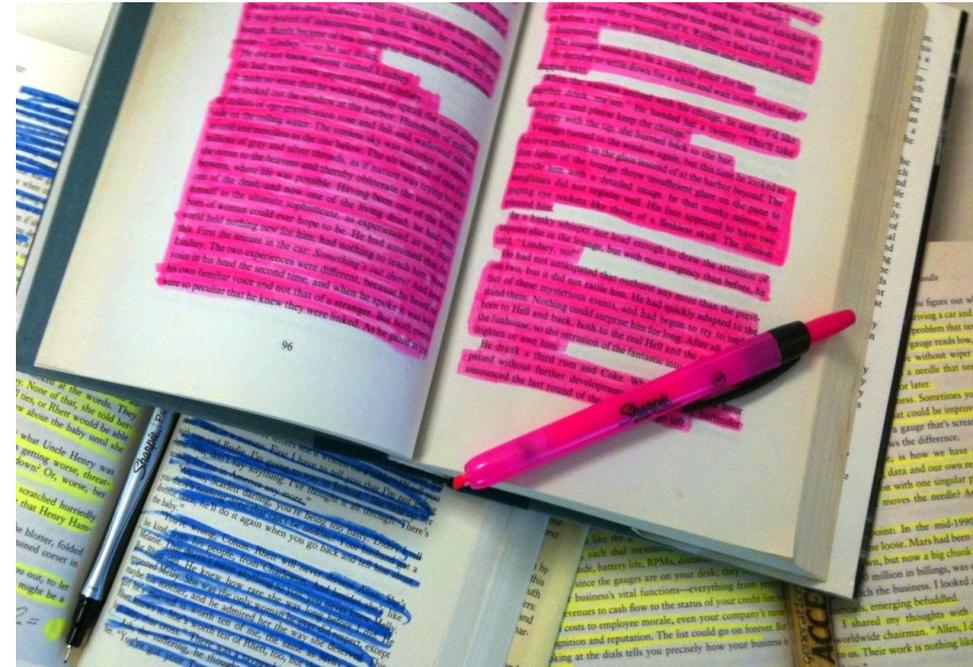
Avoid writing in complete sentences, use symbols and abbreviations, e.g.:
Pelayo, a descendant of the Visigoth aristocracy, founded the Kingdom of Asturias in 718.
Pelayo (dscdt/Visigoth arist.) fd. Asturias 718

3. THIS IS THE SUMMARY SECTION
GUESS WHY IT'S CALLED THAT
Summarise main points here at the end

Info taken from
<http://www.heritagehawks.org/faculty/dbrown/HistoryClass/TheCornellMethod.htm>

Highlighting key terms within notes

- ▶ Highlighting is one of the most often used methods, but is also over-used.
- ▶ Only highlight key terms and concepts
- ▶ In Crime handbook – try highlighting key terms of Durkheim's view on crime
- ▶ **For A level Year 1, skim through intro to Sociology handbook and highlight key terms**



FUNCTIONALISM as a **STRUCTURAL** theory makes some assumptions about how family life should be organised.

A03 ignores other family types - such as single parent or same sex fam.

hello again!
Parsons also suggested the Nuclear Family was **FUNCTIONALLY FIT**



Dad: He takes on the **INSTRUMENTAL ROLE** of being the breadwinner and going to work.
Mum: She takes on the **EXPRESSIVE Role**, looking after the family; caring and nurturing them.

Kids (all 2.4 of them)
↳ They get **SOCIALISED** into **Value Consensus** of Society.

A03 whose values are dominant?



I'm working out in a shirt and tie!
I'm drinking wine!

BECAUSE

Evaluate the contribution of **FUNCTIONALISM** to our understanding of the **FAMILY**

① It was **Geographically Mobile**



I'll miss you Mum...
bye now!

A03 Ⓛ **OUT-DATED**

② and **Socially Mobile**



I love fernell!

④ **ECONOMIC SUPPORT**



Daddy's making it rain kids!

A03 some debate about whether industrialisation created nuclear family

There are several functions to the family identified by **G.P. MURDOCH** and **Talcott Parsons**

① **GENDER SOCIALISATION AND SEXUAL REGULATION**

A03 too ROSY!!!

② **Primary Socialisation**
learning the norms and values of society
I agree me too and me



A03 **DETERMINISTIC**

③ **REPRODUCTION OF NEXT GENERATION**



let's stay at home, bake cakes and look pretty for boys coming home.

⑤ **STABILISATION OF ADULT PERSONALITY.**

and in return the family soothes the father's stresses and strains
Tea Dew?



Poison

Organising Yourself

- ▶ There are 3 separate exams for A level Sociology – ideally you should have three folders:

Paper 1

Education
Research Methods
Methods in Context
Past Papers

Paper 2

Families and Households
Global Development
Past Papers

Paper 3

Crime and Deviance
Theory and Methods
Past Papers

This year...

A level Year 2

- ▶ Lessons split into 2x 1.5 hour (Crime and Global Development) and 2 x 1 hour
- ▶ 1 Hour will be staged repetition of last years content
- ▶ 1 hour will be exam skills and application in Sociology

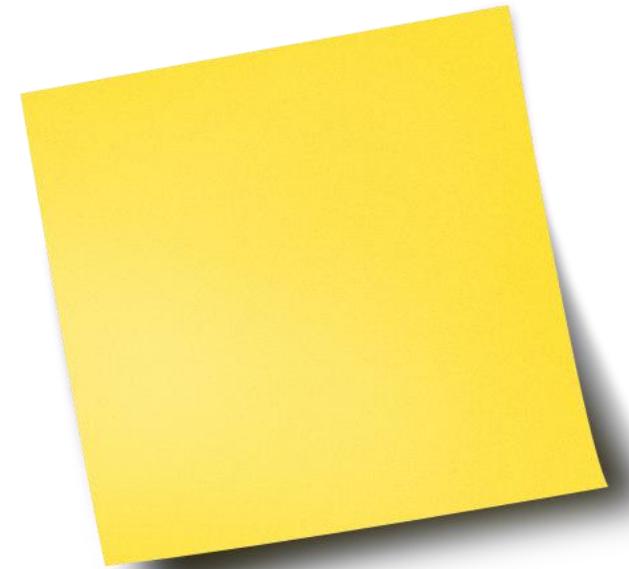
A level Year 1

- ▶ 3 x 1.5 hour classes
- ▶ 2 x 1.5 hour classes will be Education and Family
- ▶ 1 x 1.5 hour class will be Theory and Methods

Session 1

Identify ways to record
definitions of key terms

Develop ways to organise
your learning



Identify 2 things you are going to do to keep yourself organized this year