

# A Level Sociology Introduction Summer Transition booklet



This Summer transition booklet is designed to give you an ideal grounding for your A Level Sociology course.

Research and complete the tasks independently over the Summer to get a head start and prepare for the key topics within year 12 Sociology.

Please bring this completed booklet with you on your first Sociology lesson after the summer.

*We look forward to seeing you in September*  
Ms. Akthar



# Key information about the course

## The AQA Course

A Level Year 12  
2023-2024



**Paper 2: Education with Methods in context September-December**

**What's assessed -**

**Assessed**

- 1 hour written exam
- 40 marks
- 33.3% of A-level

**Paper 1: Families and households February 2020- May 2021**

**What's assessed**

Compulsory content 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3

**Assessed**

- 2 hour written exam
- 80 marks
- 33.3% of A-level

**Questions**

- Education: short answer and extended writing, 50 marks
- Methods in Context: extended writing, 20 marks
- Theory and Methods: extended writing, 10 marks

100% Exam (two papers),  
0% Coursework

For more information, please check the AQA Sociology website

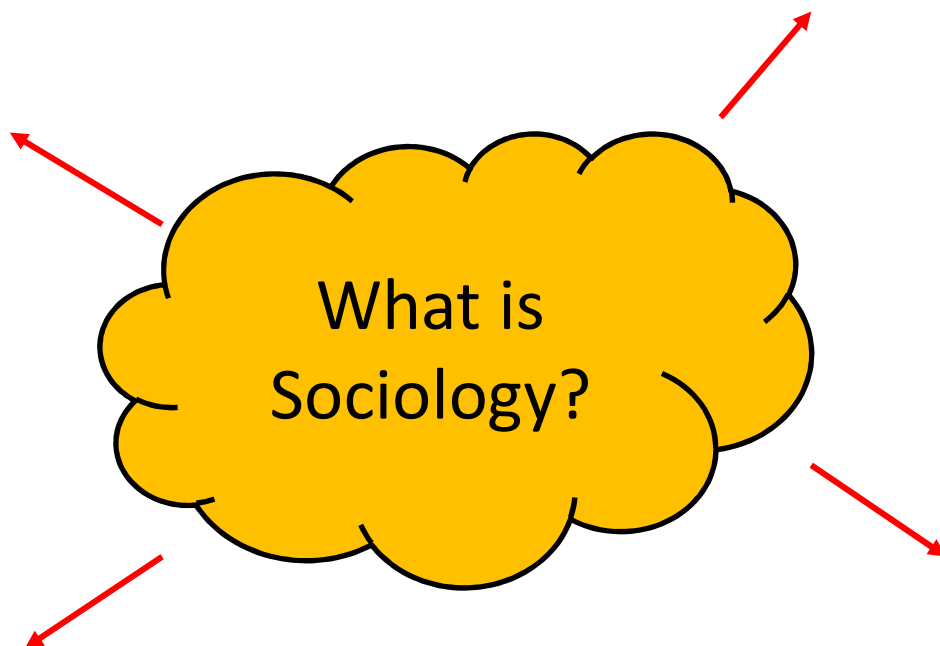
**You will also be provided with the AQA textbook in your first week. You must pay a £5 deposit for this.**

# Introduction to Sociology?

Task: Research what Sociology is online and complete the mind map

Type in the following onto google to support you build your answer:

- *Revise sociology*
- *Tutor2u Sociology*
- *Department of Sociology*



# What is a Sociological theory?

Sociologists study social events, interactions, and patterns, and they develop a theory in an attempt to explain why things work as they do. A sociological **theory** seeks to explain social phenomena.

## 1. Sociological theories as models

- Each model (theory) is an attempt to represent the real thing (society).
- Each model (theory) looks different and emphasizes different features (of society).
- It is difficult to decide which model (theory) is the best representation.
- Each model (theory) has positive and negative points

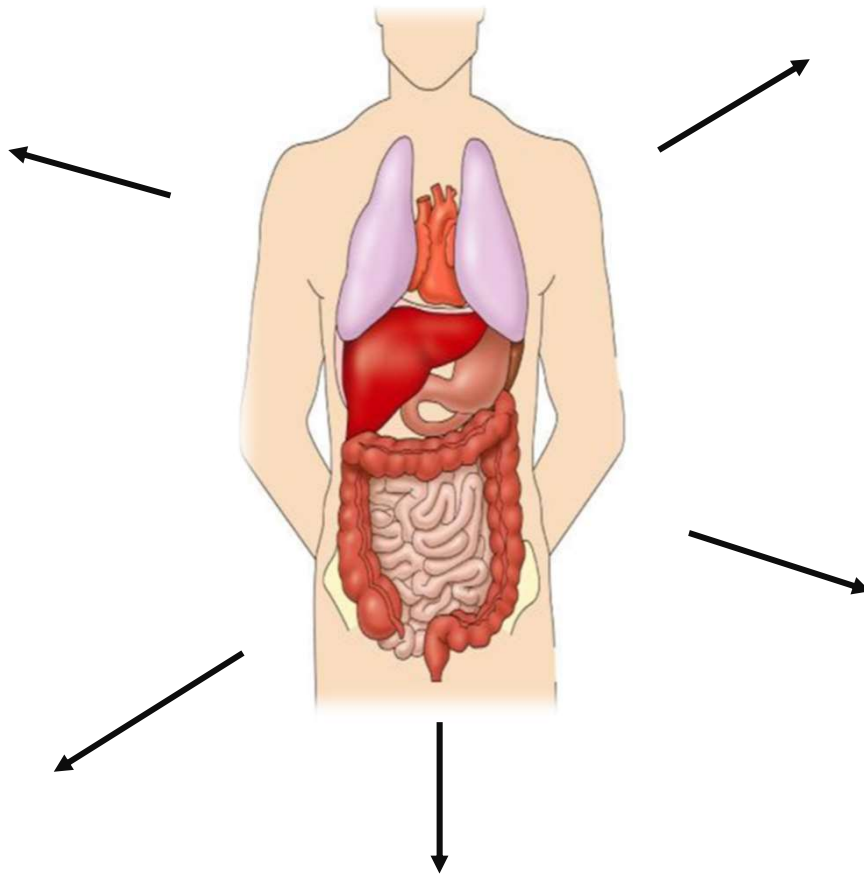
## Key terms glossary –

Task: Use google to find the definition for the following key terms

<u>Key terms</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Example</u>
Culture		
Norms		
Values		
Nature		
Nuture		
Sanctions		
Social agencies		
Social Control		
Conform		
Subcultures		
Socialisation		
Primary Socialisation		
Secondary socialisation		
Theories		
Achieved status		
Ascribed status		

## Task 1: Functional Functionalists...

1. Write Definitions for Free Will and Determinism
  
1. Research Functionalism and complete the mind bubble below outlining the “Organic Analogy”



## Task 2: Fiery Feminists...



### The Basics of feminism

- Inequality between men and women is **universal** and the most significant form of inequality
- Gender norms are **socially constructed not determined by biology** and can thus be changed.
- **Patriarchy is the main cause of gender inequality** – women are subordinate because men have more power.
- Feminism is a **political movement**; it exists to rectify sexual inequalities, although strategies for social change vary enormously.

2. Research one examples of gender inequality within the UK in contemporary society and explain this below

1. Watch youtube clip:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHPOLSywdi0> Define all key words from the video clip.
2. Research Feminism and produce a fact sheet outlining definitions and provide examples below
3. Research @/#EverydaySexism (remember this is a public forum and some content may not be appropriate and the school can take no responsibility over the content)

### Feminism fact sheet



# Marxism

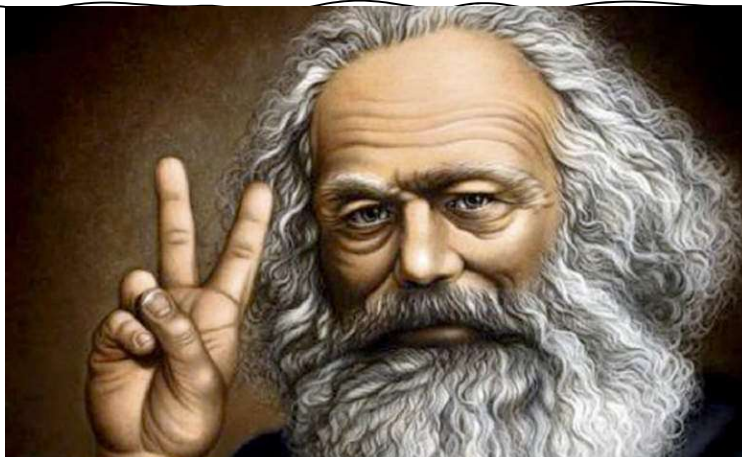
## Who is KARL MARX?

Karl Marx (1818- 1883) was alive in the middle of the 19th century, and it's important to realise that his theories stem from an analysis of European societies 150 years ago.

- Marx travelled through Europe during the mid and later half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century where he saw much poverty and inequality.
- The more he travelled the more he explained what he saw through unequal access to resources and ownership of property, wealth.
- He argued that the working class (**proletariat**) in Britain (and elsewhere) was being exploited by the ruling class (**bourgeoisie**).

The ruling class paid the working class less wages than they deserved, made them work long hours in poor conditions, and kept the profit from the sale of the goods produced.

Thus, the ruling class got richer and the working class became increasingly poor, and had no way of improving their prospects, unless... Marx argued, they all came together to overthrow the ruling class in a revolution. Equality for all in the shape of Communism would replace an unequal capitalist system.



## Task 3: Magnificent Marxists...

1. Watch youtube clip:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vz3eOb6Yl1s>



2. Define all key words on the video clip below

3. Research Marxism and produce a fact sheet outlining the difference between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat.

Watch the movie 'Hunger games' or some clips on youtube and compare the key similarities between this movie and the Marxist ideology. Think about the following: Power, inequality, injustice, money, greed, poverty, revolution, justice.



4. Research examples of class inequality within the UK in contemporary Society.

# Task 4: Autonomous Social Action Theorist...

Functionalism	Feminism	Marxism

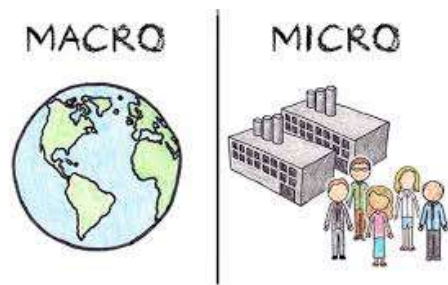
1. Complete a Summary table for your notes outlining each approach and stating whether they are:

- **Consensus** or **Conflict Theories**
- **Macro** or **Micro Approaches**
- **Structural** or **Social Action**

Ensure that you define each of these key words.



2. From the functionalist task you would have discussed free will vs. determinism. Do we have free will within society? What perspective would Social Action Theorist take on this question?



3. Define Social Action Theorist approach to society.

4. Research Jane Elliot's "Brown Eyes, Blue Eyes" experiments along with her "Angry Eye" experiment. What would Social Action Theorist say about these experiment



## Task 5: Passionate Post-modernists...

1. Produce a factsheet outlining what post-modernism is and what it says about society?



2. Produce a table outlining the differences between a modern and post-modern society.

Modern	Post-Modern

3. Find examples of post-modern changes in society within the Media. For example Same Sex Marriages in the USA.

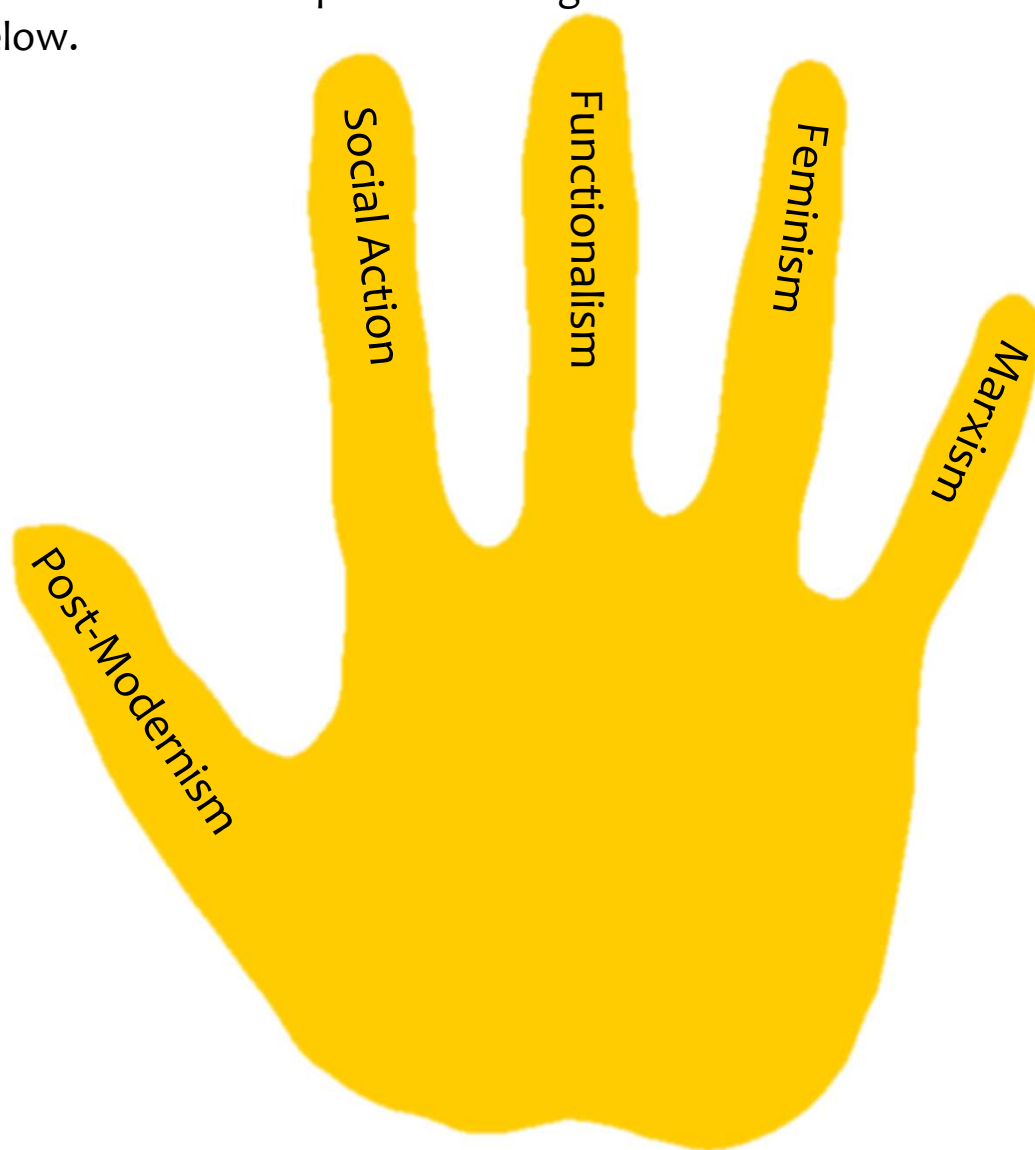


## Task 6: The Family...

### The Family Five

There are five main Sociological approaches or perspectives. You have already researched them and explained the key terms.

Now you outline their assumptions regarding the Family as a Sociological institution and tag Sociologists which put forward these ideas. Please post all findings and ideas on the web link below.

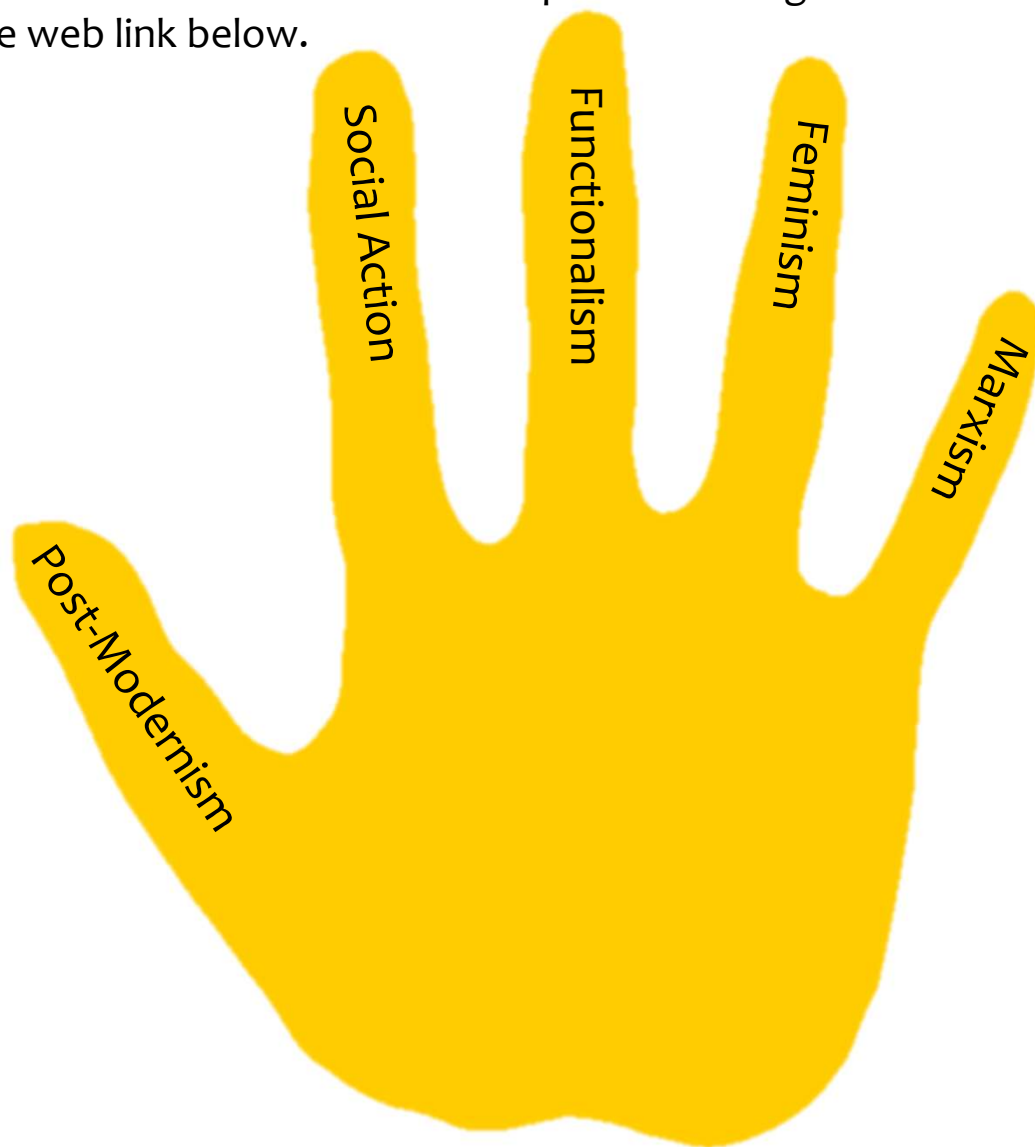


## Task 6: The Education system...

### *The Education Five*

There are five main Sociological approaches or perspectives. You have already researched them and explained the key terms.

Now you outline their assumptions regarding the Education system as a Sociological institution and tag Sociologists which put forward these ideas. Please post all findings and ideas on the web link below.



# Introduction to SEGA and social stratification

## Learning Objective

1. To explore the definition and complexity surrounding social class, ethnicity, gender and age.
2. To understand how SEGA is a social construction.

**Social class**  
**Ethnicity**  
**Gender**  
**Age**

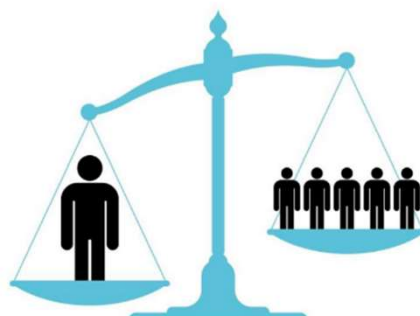
## Social Stratification

Social stratification refers to how society is divided up into different groups which have different life chances. The main divisions which interest sociologists are those which arise as result of differences in wealth and income, social class, sex and gender and ethnicity, as well as age and ability-disability.

### Task:

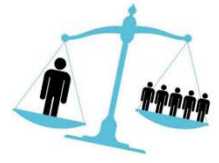
- 1) Pick one area of inequality in our society (Social class, ethnicity, gender or age)
- 2) Produce a poster (on the next page) gathering information online.

Challenge: Outline what type of inequality they experience and why





# Social stratification poster



# Task 7

- Read the following articles and 1. complete a summary of the articles main points.
- 2. identify what would Consensus/ Conflict theorist state about the article.
  
- Article 1:
- <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/jun/25/britains-top-jobs-still-in-hands-of-private-school-elite-study-finds>
  
- Article 2:
- <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jun/25/harry-and-meghans-new-home-cost-taxpayer-24m>
  
- Article 3:
- <https://www.newstatesman.com/culture/2019/06/metoo-fathers-dads-daughters-paris-jackson-lily-rose-depp-ivanka-trump-cosby>
  
- Article 4:
- <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/jun/24/nhs-to-open-first-ever-gambling-clinic-for-children>

# Useful Resources & Further Reading

*To help you on your way...*

## Websites:

- AQA New Specification –  
<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192/introduction>
- AQA - Example Assessment Material -  
<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192/assessment-resources>
- S-Cool Revision Materials -  
<http://www.s-cool.co.uk/a-level/sociology>
- Every Day Sexism Project -  
<http://everydaysexism.com/index.php/about>
- Who Needs Feminism -  
<http://whoneedsfeminism.com/about.html>
- He for She Campaign - <http://www.heforshe.org/>

## Youtube Videos:

- Emma Watson Addresses the UN  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6XTx2Rg04g>

## Books:

**Mulberry 6<sup>th</sup> form will be providing you with Sociology text books. Please note that you will need to provide a £5 deposit when you will get back at the end of year 13.**

