

Sociology GCSE - AQA - [Specification](#)

Timing	Unit Title	Key Question	Knowledge	Assessing understanding
Autumn	An Introduction to Sociology	An Introduction to Sociology	- How sociological knowledge and ideas change over time and how these ideas inform our understanding of the social world - The contextualised work of key classical sociologists Durkheim, Marx and Weber referencing both their view of the world and their contribution to the development of the discipline - Introducing key sociological terms e.g. socialisation, social processes, social structures - Introducing key sociological theories and conflict vs. consensus theories e.g. Functionalism, Marxism, Feminism, Interactionism	- Regular knowledge quizzes - Regular checks for understanding in the classroom - Regular writing tasks - Exam answers planning - Unseen timed exam practice and unseen end of topic questions
		Paper 1 & 2: Research Methods	- The process of conducting a research study and how sociologists use pilot studies and select various sampling methods - The types of primary and secondary data sociologists gather/use in their research and their advantages and disadvantages - Practical and ethical issues sociologists must consider - The interpretation of data (e.g. identifying trends and patterns) - The application of the concepts of validity, reliability, representativeness and generalisability to data	
Spring	Paper 1: Families	Paper 1: Families	- Family types, alternatives to the family - Family diversity (types of family diversity, global diversity, Key Study: the Rapoports) - Functionalist, Marxist and Feminist perspectives on the family, including criticisms (Key Studies: Parsons, Zaretsky, Delphy & Leonard) - Relationships within families, including conjugal roles, the conventional family, the symmetrical family, power relationships within families, relationships with the wider family (Key Studies: Oakley, Young & Willmott) - Changing family structures: changes in patterns of marriage, divorce, cohabitation, fertility, lone-parent families, why these changes have occurred, consequences of divorce - Review of the Research Methods content and exam questions as applied to Families	- Regular knowledge quizzes - Regular checks for understanding in the classroom - Regular writing tasks - Exam answers planning - Unseen timed exam practice

Summer	Paper 1: Education	Roles and functions of education	• The Functionalist, Marxist and Feminist perspectives on the function of education, including criticisms (Key Studies: Durkheim, Parsons, Bowles & Gintis) • Contemporary provision of education in the UK from nursery to university, including the features of different types of educational settings (e.g. comprehensive, private etc) • The marketisation of education since the 1980s (Key Study: Ball, Bowe & Gewirtz) and the impact on education • Options for vocational and alternative forms of education • External and internal factors that affect educational attainment, e.g. material deprivation, language, educational policy, school ethos, teacher labelling, subcultures, and these relate to social class, gender and ethnicity (Key Studies: Halsey, Heath and Ridge, Ball and Willis) • Review of the Research Methods content and exam questions as applied to Education	• Regular knowledge quizzes • Regular checks for understanding in the classroom • Regular writing tasks • Exam answers planning • Unseen timed exam practice • Year 10 Mock (June)
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