

GCSE Sociology

Key terms and Key studies overview

[You must know these]



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Families key studies			
	Perspective	Research method	Key findings
Parsons	Functionalist	Work of other sociologists	Two key functions of the family: 1. Primary socialisation – children are taught the shared norms and values of society 2. Stabilisation of adult personality – family relieves stress of life, like a ‘warm bath’
Zaretsky	Marxist	Work of other sociologists	The family serves capitalism through: 1. Women’s unpaid labour 2. Passing on of advantage in families eg inheritance 3. Unit of consumption
Delphy and Leonard	Radical feminist	Work of other sociologists	Family is patriarchal because: 1. Women are exploited economically – labour is used by their husbands 2. Family is hierarchical – men at the top 3. Patriarchal family reflects patriarchal society
Oakley	Feminist	Work of other sociologists	Analyses the ‘conventional family’ findings: 1. Women are expected to do unpaid work 2. IDEA of the conventional family is powerful 3. People expect happiness, but nuclear family can be stressful 4. Middle class – more family diversity
Rapoport and Rapoport	NA	Work of other sociologists	Pioneers in researching family diversity. 5 types: 1. Organisational – structure of families 2. Cultural – cultural/ religious differences 3. Social class – class differences 4. Cohort – historical differences 5. Life course – differences in life cycle of the family
Willmott and Young	Functionalist	Survey: Face-to-face structures interviews	Found the family was becoming more symmetrical – similar but not identical roles, equal contribution to household work, and shared decision making and friends. Home-centred. Principle of stratified diffusion: changes in family life start with higher social classes and trickle down



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Families and Households



Adolescence	The period of time between childhood and adulthood
Agency of socialisation	A social institution which socialises people, for example, the family, education, the mass media or religion.
Arranged marriage	A marriage in which the parents have a say in the choice of bride or bridegroom for their son or daughter.
Attitude survey	A social survey that measures respondents' views and thoughts on a particular issue/ issues
Bias	Being one-sided rather than neutral or open-minded. Bias can operate either in favour of or against an idea, group or point of view
Bigamy	The offence of getting married to someone whilst already married to someone else.
Blended (or reconstituted) family	This is also known as a reconstructed family. A blended family has parents and children from more than one relationship in it.
Canalization	The way in which parents can channel children into certain directions
Case study	A detailed study of a particular institution e.g. Family
Census	A questionnaire survey conducted every 10 years to collect information in the UK on the whole population
Child rearing	Bringing up children
Childhood	The period of time in a person's life between birth and becoming an adult
Class deal (in relation to working-class women)	A deal that offers women material rewards such as consumer goods in return for working for a wage.
Closed question	A fixed choice question that requires the respondent to choose between a number of given answers
Cohabitation	Partners living together without being married.
Commune	A group of people who live together and share possessions, wealth and property A small community whose members share in the ownership of property and the division of labour.
Competition (in a variety of contexts)	Striving to gain or win something by defeating or establishing superiority over others.
Confidentiality	An agreement to keep information about a participant private. It will only be accessed by the people who have authority to access it
Conformity	Behaviour that complies with or follows society's norms and values
Conjugal relationships	The relationship between a married or cohabiting couple
Conjugal role	The domestic roles of married or cohabiting partners
Consensus	A broad agreement of norms and values

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Content analysis	The analysis of documents and images (eg media products) by creating a set of categories, coding sections of the content according to those categories and then counting the number of times a theme appears
Continuity	Lack of social change; social structures, values, norms, attitudes, behaviours and so on keep (remain) the same over time.
Conventional family	A traditional nuclear family containing a married couple and their children who live together
Covert observation	The researcher observes activities in order to study it but without informing its members that they are doing the research
Crisis of masculinity	The idea that males see their traditional masculing identity as under threat today. Eg they no longer have a clear cut role in society
Data	Information collected and analysed during a research process
Data analysis	Interpreting or making sense of the information collected during research and summarising the main findings or results
Data protection	Research participants who are identifiable within the data held by researchers have legal protection and can ask to see the data.
Dependent family members	Family members who depend on others within the family due to their age or lack of money. Dependent children =0 to 15 years, or 16 to 18 if in full time education.
Discrimination	Less favourable or unfair treatment based. For example. On an individual's age, gender, ethnicity, class
Divorce	The legal end of a marriage
Domestic division of labour	Housework, or unpaid work in the home and how it is divided between men and women
Double shift (women in marriage)	Married or cohabiting women who work two shifts by doing a paid job and also most of the housework and caring for the family
Double standards (as applied to the behaviour of men and women in society)	A rule or code of behaviour that is unfairly applied to one group (eg women) and not another (eg men) For ecample, the norms surrounding sexual behaviour allow men more freedom,
Dual career family	A family where two adults have careers
Dysfunctional families	A family where the functions such as providing emotional support are not being carried out. They include social problems such as domestic violence or child abuse.
Economic function (of families)	From a functionalist approach, this is the function that the family carries out by providing its members with financial support, food and shelter. From a Marxis approach the family has an economic function under capitalism because women, as housewives and mothers, carry out domestic labour (childrearing, cleaning) that benefits the capitalist society.

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Economy	A system by which goods and services are produced, distributed and consumed in a region or country. EG capitalism and socialism.
Egalitarian	Based on the idea that people are equal
Empty nest family	A family consisting of a mature couple who live together after the children have left home
Empty shell marriage	When a couple are still married and live in the same house but lead separate lives.
Ethical considerations	Issues such as informed consent and confidentiality that sociologists must consider in order to conduct morally acceptable research.
Ethnic diversity	Having a range of different ethnic groups in a society
Ethnic group	A social group whose members share an identity based on their cultural traditions or cultural characteristics such as religion or language. Britain has a wide range: Indian, African American.
Ethnic minority	A group within a community which has different national or cultural traditions from the main population.
Ethnicity	Cultural traditions, norms and values that distinguish the members of a particular social group from other cultures.
Ethnography	The study of peoples cultures and practices in everyday settings
Expectations	Hopes or beliefs about what something will be like, for example about what marriage will be or should be like
Expressive role (functions of the family)	The caring, emotional and nurturing role in the family. Parsons sees this as the woman's natural role in the family
Extended family	A family composed of the nuclear family and other relatives.
Family	This is a group of people to whom you feel related by ties of blood or marriage.
Family diversity	The idea that there are many different types of family structure.
Feminism	A movement that fights for gender equality in society. Feminists want equality in the power, status and rights of women and men in society.
Feminists	Sociologists who explore how gender operates in society and want gender equality
Focus group	A type of group interview that focuses on one particular topic. It explores how people interact within the group and how they respond to each other's views.
Functionalism	An approach that seeks to explain the existence of social structures (education, religion) in terms of the functions or by the roles they perform in or for society.
Functionalists	A person who believes in functionalism
Functionally important roles	Key positions in society that provide essential functions and services and ensure societies survival over time.
Gender	These are the social rules and ways of acting in all societies, which are based upon whether you are male or female. Sex is biological; gender depends on your society.

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Gender deal (in relation to working class women)	A 'deal' that offers women emotional and material rewards in return for living with a male breadwinner in the family
Gender roles	The behaviour of people expected for their gender and associated with masculinity and femininity
Glass ceiling (in relation to women in employment)	An invisible barrier to promotion faced by some groups including women
Hypothesis	A prediction that can be tested and either supported or refuted
Idealisation	The representation of the traditional nuclear family as the ideal type of family.
Image	A representation or picture of a particular social group as presented, for example in the mass media. Media images of some groups are distorted
Immigrant	A person who has migrated to another country in order to live and work there
Immigration	The process of moving to another country in order to live and work there
Income	The flow of resources that individuals and households receive over a specified period of time. Income may be received in cash or in kind (e.g. petrol allowance)
Informed consent	The research participant agrees to take part in the research once the sociologist has explained fully what the research is about and why it is being carried out.
Instrumental role (functions of the family)	The breadwinner role in the family. Parsons sees this as the male's role in the family
Integrated conjugal roles	Husband and wife perform similar tasks and have a number of common interests and activities.
Interactionism	A perspective. Theory that focuses on how people interact on a daily basis. Interactionists describe social reality by interpreting the feelings and actions of the people involved.
Intergenerational	Between generations
Interview	A method used to collect data where an interviewer asks questions and the interviewee responds
Isolation (social and family)	The idea that the nuclear family has become more isolated or separated from the wider family
Kibbutz	A collective community in Israel.
Kin	relatives
Kinship	Our sense of family relationships and duties
Life chances	This refers to the opportunities that present themselves to people. An individual's chances of achieving positive or negative outcomes(e.g. health, education, housing) as they progress through life
Life expectancy	The average number of years a new born baby may be expected to live.

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Lifestyle	The way in which people live including their leisure and work patterns. Lifestyle is influenced by factors such as religion, age income and social class
Lone parent family	Person bringing up his or her children without a partner to support him or her
Longitudinal study	A study of the same group of people conducted over a long period of time. After the initial survey or interview has taken place, follow up surveys or interviews are carried out at intervals over a number of years.
Male domination (of society)	The exercise of power and control by men over women in society
Marriage	A legally recognised union of a man and woman by religious or civil ceremony.
Marxism	This is a form of sociology based on the idea that rich people dominate poorer people. They are able to do it in such a way that poor people do not recognise what is happening to them.
Marxist	Someone who believes in Marxism
Mass media	Forms of communication (media) that reach large mass audiences, including newspapers, magazines, books, TV, cinema and internet.
Matriarch	A women who holds power and authority
Matriarchal family	A family where the women holds power and authority
Middle class	A social class made up of people who work in non-manual, managerial and professional occupations
Mixed methods research	The use of different methods within one project to generate both quantitative and qualitative data.
Monogamy	The practice of being married to only one person at a time
New man	A caring, sharing man who rejects sexist attitudes, believes in gender equality and puts this into practice by sharing domestic tasks and childcare.
News value	Media professionals ideas about what issues and personalities are seen as newsworthy, topical or important
New right	This is a set of political views associated with extreme conservatism and the politics of Margaret Thatcher who was elected Prime Minister in 1979. It emphasised traditional values. It blames societies problems on the breakdown of the nuclear family.
Neo-conventional family	The new nuclear family headed by a married or cohabiting couple who are both working.
Non-participant observation	A research method in which a sociologists observes the group being studied but does not take part.
Norms	The rules that define appropriate and expected behaviour within a particular setting
Nuclear family	A family group consisting of the father, mother and their dependent children.

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Observation	A research method in which a sociologist gathers data by observing
Open question	A question that allows the respondents to put forward their own answer rather than choose a response.
Participant observation	A qualitative research method where the researcher joins a group and takes part in its daily activities in order to study it
Particularistic standards	In the family the children are judged against the standards and rules of their particular family and its values
Patriarchal family	Families in which men hold power and authority
Patriarchy	A situation where men dominate society and its institutions.
Pluralism	An approach which argues that a range of views, interests and opinions exist in society and no one groups dominates the political process
Polyandry	A type of Polygamy where a women has more than one husband at one time
Polygamy	This is marriage to multiple partners at a time.
Polygyny	A type of Polygamy in which a man has more than one wife at the same time
Popular press	The daily tabloid newspapers e.g. the sun that get large groups of readers
Population	The particular group under study from which the sample is selected. The population may consist of people such as higher education students or institutions such as schools depending on the aims of the research.
Primary data	Information and data that is gathered and collected first-hand by doing research using techniques such as questionnaires, interviews or observation
Primary socialisation	This is the type of socialisation that takes place in the home. Young children experience primary socialisation when they learn the norms and values typical of their culture from their families.
Principle of stratified diffusion	The idea that social change starts at the top of the social stratification system and spread downwards. Changes in family life may spread form M/C to W/C
Privatised (nuclear family)	A nuclear family that is cut off from the extended family, the lifestyle focuses on the home
Privatised instrumentalism	Social relationships centred on the home, with work as a means to an end.
Propaganda	Information (often false or biased) that is used to promote a particular viewpoint or cause
Qualitative data	This is research concerned with quality of feeling and emotion.
Quality press	Newspapers that cover serious news issues such as UK politics, world news the global economy and business
Quantitative data	Quantitative data is information that can be counted in some way.

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Questionnaire	A set of structures, standardised questions
Quota sample	A sampling where an exact quota (number) are gained from certain categories eg youths, boys
Racial discrimination	This is when people treat you differently because of your cultural, religious or ethnic background.
Racism	Racism or racial discrimination occurs when people are treated differently and less favourably on the basis of their ethnicity
Random sample	A sample where each member of the population has an equal chance of being picked. E.g. names out of a hat
Reconstituted (or blended) family	A new family formed when two adults remarry or cohabit and live together with children from a previous relationship.
Reliability	Repeating a study to check if findings are consistent. Similar findings each time means the study is reliable
Representative data/sample	This reflects the characters of the population well and means that we are more likely to be able to generalise from a representative sample
Research	Collecting data in an organised way by certain methods; interview, observation, questionnaire
Respondent	The person who gives the information needed
Role conflict	When the demands of one of our roles conflict with another role eg a policewomen who is a mother to someone who has committed a crime
Roles	The pattern of behaviours that are acceptable behaviours for the person occupying that role
Rural	Country life, these are more sparsely populated than cities
Sample	Subgroup of the population who are selected for study
Sampling frame	A complete list of all the members of the population from which the sample are drawn. E.g. school register, sixth form students.
Secondary data	This is information that sociologists can use as evidence that already exists in one form or another. Someone else has collected the information and it is in a book or report.
Secondary socialisation	This is the kind of socialisation that takes place outside the family.
Secularisation	The term is used to describe a view that some people have that our society is becoming less religious and that traditional Christianity is less important than it was in the past.
Segregated conjugal roles	Husband and wife perform different tasks and have a number of separate interests and activities.
Selective use of data Separate spheres (in relation to the role of women)	This is where a large amount of data is overlooked leading to supressing (hiding) evidence or 'cherry-picking' biased figures.

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Serial monogamy	A pattern of divorce and remarriage
Sex (gender) discrimination	Treating someone less favourable or differently because of their gender
Sex (gender) equality	Treating people equally whatever their gender
Sexism	Discrimination based on gender or sex
Snowball sample	A researcher contacts one member of the population and this one person finds other people to study
Social change/changing social attitudes	A change in social attitudes, behaviours, norms, values and relationships
Social class/socio-economic class	Stratification that is based on economic factors such as occupation and income
Social cohesion	The idea that people in society should have a shared set of values and attitudes that help to unite society and bring people together
Social construct	Views of the family are influenced by the values and norms of the society we live in. They are defined by society.
Social control (formal and informal)	Control or constraints over people's actions and behaviour from society or groups. This can be formal (based on laws and rules) or informal (via social pressure eg peers and family)
Social convention	The norms or accepted ways to behave in particular situations
Social exclusion	Being shut out or excluded from participating in societies social, economic, political and cultural life
Social inequality	The uneven distribution of resources such as money and power or of opportunities related to education and health
Social mobility	Movement up or down between the layers in society
Social network	A network of relatives and friends
Social order	This occurs when society is stable, ordered and smoothly run eg very little crime
Social stigma	The shame or disgrace attached to something eg an illegitimate child
Social stratification	The way society is divided in to hierarchies (strata) or layers. With the most privileged at the top and the least favourable at the bottom
Socialisation	The process where people learn the culture, norms and values of the group or society that they were born into.
Socially defined behaviour	Behaviour that is thought of as natural but is actually a product of cultural expectations.
Society	A group who share a culture or a way of life

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Status	Social position in society e.g. occupations; policewomen, or families; mother or child. It can also be the amount of prestige in a role or position.
Step parent	A social parent of their partners child but not their biological parent
Stereotype	A fixed, standardised or distorted view of the characteristics of particular group such as women. Stereotypes are often based on prejudice
Survey	Research that is filled in by the respondent e.g. questionnaires and interviews where everyone answers the same set of questions
Symmetrical family	Family where responsibilities are equally shared between husband and wife.
Systematic sample	A sampling technique that takes every nth item form the sampling frame for example every 10 th name from a register
Technological change	Developments in technology (such as computers, IVF, mobiles)
Theoretical perspective	Ideas to explain the social world: functionalism, Marxism, feminism
Traditional family roles	Conventional gender roles within the nuclear family such as the man as the breadwinner and the women as the homemaker
Trend (in relation to data)	A general direction in which statistics on something change or move over time. Eg the divorce rate, birth rates, marriage rates.
Triangulation (in relation to social research)	Cross-checking the findings from a qualitative method against the findings from a quantitative method
Unrepresentative data/sample	A sample that does not reflect the characteristics of its population
Unstructured interview	Informal interviews that are like guided conversations based around a set of themes or points rather than a standardised interview schedule. It should gain rich qualitative data
Universal standards	The moral standards/norms and values that apply in wider society which might be different to the Particularistic standards learnt at home.
Urban	Cities
Validity	Data is valid if it gives a true picture of what is being studied.
Value consensus	Agreement on values
Values	Beliefs and ideas about what is seen as desirable or worth striving for in a society. Values such as privacy and respect for life provide general guidelines for behaviour
Welfare state	A system which the state takes responsibility for protecting the health and welfare of its citizens and meeting their social needs. E.g. NHS, benefits
Work life balance	Getting the priorities right between career (hours spent in the office) and lifestyle (family time, health, leisure)
Working class	Working class people tend to work with their skills

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World view	Way of seeing the social world
Youth culture.	This is a set of fashions, values and shared norms that are typical of a group of young people such as punks or hippies.

Education key studies				
Study	Perspective	Research method	Key ideas	
Parsons	Functionalist	Work of other sociologists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education teaches the difference between particularistic and universalistic values - Role allocation and meritocracy 	
Durkheim	Functionalist	Work of other sociologists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education teaches shared norms and values and builds social solidarity - Teaches children specialised skills for work 	
Bowles and Gintis	Marxist	Interviews and secondary data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a correspondence or similarity between work and school - Education creates an obedient workforce to serve capitalism – hidden curriculum 	
Willis	Marxist	Case study: Participant observation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Studied the lads – an anti-school subculture – for two years - Found they were not obedient but their subculture was similar to WC workplaces 	
Ball	NA	Case study: participant observation and interviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lower class students more likely to be in lower bands - Teachers had different expectations of different bands - Mixed ability classes – labelling still happened 	
Ball, Bowe and Gewirtz	NA	Interviews and secondary data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parental choice and competition has increased inequalities in education - Middle class parents have more choice - Schools focus on image and results 	
Halsey, Heath and Ridge	NA	Face to face survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Survey of 8000 men - 3 social classes: service, intermediate, working - Service class boy 11 times more likely to go to university than working class 	



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Education



Academy	A failed school. Taken over by central government in partnership with private sponsors such as businesses or churches. The aim of their creation was to raise achievement.
Achievement (in education)	The level of schooling you have successfully completed and the ability to attain success in your studies. When you receive great grades, this is an example of academic achievement
Anti-school sub-culture	The values shared by a group of pupils that run counter to the values of the school as a whole
Attitude survey	A range of questions to measure opinions on a range of topics – such as education, family life, religious beliefs immigration and environmental issues .
Bias	Being one-sided rather than neutral or open-minded. Bias can operate either in favour of or against an idea, group or point of view
Case study	A detailed study of a particular institution e.g. Education
Census	A questionnaire survey conducted every 10 years to collect information in the UK on the whole population
Citizenship	Participation in political community. Citizenship describes the relationship between the citizen and the society and the need for citizens to understand the political and economic processes, institutions, laws, rights and responsibilities of the governmental system.
Closed question	A fixed choice question that requires the respondent to choose between a number of given answers
Competition	A contest to become the best. Competition is encouraged in education to help improve standards
Comprehensive school	A non-selective education system where all children can attend regardless of ability
Compulsory state education	A period of time imposed when a child must attend education. In the UK a child must stay in full-time education until they are 16 years old.
Confidentiality	An agreement to keep information about a participant private. It will only be accessed by the people who have authority to access it
Conformity	Behaviour that complies with or follows society's norms and values
Consensus	A broad agreement of norms and values



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Education



Content analysis	The analysis of documents and images (e.g. media products) by creating a set of categories, coding sections of the content according to those categories and then counting the number of times a theme appears
Continuity	Lack of social change; social structures, values, norms, attitudes, behaviours and so on keep (remain) the same over time.
Correspondence principle	The way in which what is learned in school though the hidden curriculum mirrors what is required when I the workplace. For example, how schools are organised and how control is exerted will mirror that of the workplace in a capitalist society.
Counter school subculture	A group within a school that rejects the values and norms of the school and replaces them with anti-school values and norms
Covert observation	The researcher observes activities in order to study it but without informing its members that they are doing the research
Cultural capital	The knowledge, attitudes and values that the middle class provide for their children that gives them an advantage in the education system
Cultural deprivation	Culturally based differences between people in a social group. Culture includes the values, norms, customs, beliefs, knowledge, skills and language of the group or society.
Cultural values	Cultural values are the core principles and ideals upon which an entire community exists. This is made up of several parts: customs, which are traditions and rituals; values, which are beliefs; and culture, which is all of a group's guiding values.
Culture	The whole way of life of particular society or social group. Culture includes the values, norms, customs, beliefs, knowledge, skills and language of the group or society.
Curriculum	The subject content to be taught in state schools as decided by government
Data	Information collected and analysed during a research process
Data analysis	Interpreting or making sense of the information collected during research and summarising the main findings or results
Data protection	Research participants who are identifiable within the data held by researchers have legal protection and can ask to see the data.
De-schooling	The idea that the education system as it is currently organised should be abolished
Discrimination	Less favourable or unfair treatment based. For example. On an individual's age, gender, ethnicity, class



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Education



Economy	A system by which goods and services are produced, distributed and consumed in a region or country. EG capitalism and socialism.
Education	Receiving systematic knowledge or instruction, particularly in a school, college or university.
Education reform	Any planned changes in the way a school system function, from teaching methodologies to administrative processes
Egalitarian	Based on the idea that people are equal
Eleven plus	An examination taken at the age of 11–12 to determine the type of secondary school a child should enter
Employment	The state of having paid work
Ethical considerations	Issues such as informed consent and confidentiality that sociologists must consider in order to conduct morally acceptable research.
Ethnic diversity	Having a range of different ethnic groups in a society
Ethnic group	A social group whose members share an identity based on their cultural traditions or cultural characteristics such as religion or language. Britain has a wide range: Indian, African American.
Ethnic minority	A group within a community which has different national or cultural traditions from the main population.
Ethnicity	Cultural traditions, norms and values that distinguish the members of a particular social group from other cultures.
Ethnocentric curriculum	The curriculum is seen as judging things in a biased way from the point of view of one culture. For example, the national curriculum may value white, western literature, art history and so on.
Ethnography	The study of peoples cultures and practices in everyday settings
Ethos (of the school)	The values and belief within a school
Exclusion (from school)	Prevention of a child from attending a particular school because of their bad behaviour, this can be for a certain amount of time or permanently
Expectations	Hopes or beliefs about what something will be like, for example, what will a Private school be like Vs a state school



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Fee paying, public, independent or private school	These are fee paying schools (parents have to pay to send their child there) that set their own curriculum and admissions policies and free from state control
Feminism	A movement that fights for gender equality in society. Feminists want equality in the power, status and rights of women and men in society.
Feminists	Sociologists who explore how gender operates in society and wants gender equality
Focus group	A type of group interview that focuses on one particular topic. It explores how people interact within the group and how they respond to each - others views.
Formal curriculum	The education system provides students with learning of subjects through the formal national curriculum (your subjects)
Formal education	Education that is systematic and runs in the same way by a set calendar and timetable. In the UK this is primary, to secondary, to higher education.
Free school	Schools that are funded directly by the state but are set up and run by parents, teachers, businesses, and faith groups.
Functionalism	An approach that seeks to explain the existence of social structures (education, religion) In terms of the functions or by the roles they perform in or for society.
Functionalists	A person who believes in functionalism
Functionally important roles	Key positions in society that provide essential functions and services and ensures societies survival over time.
Further education	Education when a person has left school, but is not in university. For example A levels and BTEC courses.
Gender	These are the social rules and ways of acting in all societies, which are based upon whether you are male or female. Sex is biological; gender depends on your society.
Gender roles	The behaviour of people expected for their gender and associated with masculinity and femininity
Gendered curriculum	The idea that the curriculum fits differently for boys and girls. Different subjects are associated with masculinity and femininity. Teachers teach different material, or treat it differently, according to whether they are teaching girls or boys.
Glass ceiling (in relation to women in employment)	An invisible barrier to promotion faced by some groups including women



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Education



Hidden curriculum	The way in which teaching, school regulations and routines shape pupil attitude and behaviour, that is, what students learn at school which is not taught in lessons e.g. punctuality, conformity and obedience
Higher education	Education at universities or similar educational establishments, especially to degree level.
Home tuition	Also called home schooling or home learning, this refers to teaching children at home rather than at school, usually by parent private tutors.
Hypothesis	A prediction that can be tested and either supported or refuted
Image	A representation or picture of a particular social group as presented eg of children from private schools or children from a state school
Immigrant	A person who has migrated to another country in order to live and work there
Immigration	The process of moving to another country in order to live and work there
Inclusion (in education)	All students attend and are welcomed by their schools in age-appropriate, regular classes and are supported to learn, contribute and participate in all aspects of the life of the school whatever special need they might have
Income	The flow of resources that individuals and households receive over a specified period of time. Income may be received in cash or in kind (eg petrol allowance)
Informal education	Education that can occur outside of a structured curriculum The Informal Curriculum is all the things you learn in school by the way the school is run, organised, the expectations and rules
Informed consent	The research participant agrees to take part in the research once the sociologist has explained fully what the research is about and why it is being carried out.
Institutional racism	Where the structure and practises of an organisation such as the police, lead to a group being discriminated.
Intelligence quotient	A persons IQ: a number representing a person's reasoning ability (measured using problem-solving tests) as compared to the statistical norm or average for their age, taken as 100.
Interactionism	A perspective. Theory that focuses on how people interact on a daily basis. Interactionists describe social reality by interpreting the feelings and actions of the people involved.



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Education



Interest groups	Members of a group who share common concerns, and try to influence governments to address the impact those concerns.
Interview	A method used to collect data where an interviewer asks questions and the interviewee responds
Labelling	Names/labels given to the individual by teachers which then influence the behaviour of those individuals and also influence the way others respond to those individuals.
League tables in education	Lists produced by the Government indicating the position of each school in comparison to others depending on their exam performance
Life chances	This refers to the opportunities that present themselves to people. An individual's chances of achieving positive or negative outcomes(e.g. health, education, housing) as they progress through life
Lifestyle	The way in which people live including their leisure and work patterns. Lifestyle is influenced by factors such as religion, age income and social class
Lone parent family	Person bringing up his or her children without a partner to support him or her
Longitudinal study	A study of the same group of people conducted over a long period of time. After the initial survey or interview has taken place, follow up surveys or interviews are carried out at intervals over a number of years.
Marketization of education	Changes to the education system so that it became more business-like. This means that it brought market forces such as competition, supply and demand.
Marxism	This is a form of sociology based on the idea that rich people dominate poorer people. They are able to do it in such a way that poor people do not recognise what is happening to them.
Marxist	Someone who believes in Marxism
Mass media	Forms of communication (media) that reach large mass audiences, including newspapers, magazines, books, TV, cinema and internet.
Master status	A state such as a junkie or a thief that over-rides all of an individual's other statuses such as daughter or employee
Meritocracy	A social system in which rewards are allocated justly on the basis of merit rather than factors such as class, gender, ethnicity.



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Education



Middle class	A social class made up of people who work in non-manual, managerial and professional occupations
Mixed ability	Pupils from different abilities are taught within the same class
Mixed methods research	The use of different methods within one project to generate both quantitative and qualitative data
National Curriculum	Subjects and content that must be studied by all children in state schools, in an attempt to standardise educational provision.
News value	Media professionals ideas about what issues and personalities are seen as newsworthy, topical or important
Non-participant observation	A research method in which a sociologists observes the group being studied but does not take part.
Norms	The rules that define appropriate and expected behaviour within a particular setting
Observation	A research method in which a sociologist gathers data by observing
Ofsted	The Government agency given the task of monitoring the quality of schools and teachers in the UK.
Open question	A question that allows the respondents to put forward their own answer rather than choose a response.
Organised religion	This is a religion where belief systems are systematic and formally established. Sometimes referred to by the media as meaning the world's biggest religions
Participant observation	A qualitative research method where the researcher joins a group and takes part in its daily activities in order to study it
Particularistic standards	In the home a child is judged as having particularistic standards which is where they are not compared to the achievements of anyone else, where as in education they might be (known as universalistic standards)
Pluralism	An approach which argues that a range of views, interests and opinions exist in society and no one groups dominates the political process
Popular press	The daily tabloid newspapers or 'red tops' that get large readership



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Education



Primary data	Information and data that is gathered and collected first-hand by doing research using techniques such as questionnaires, interviews or observation
Privatisation (economy)	The transfer of a business, industry, or service from public to private ownership and control. E.g. trains used to be in public control and now they are privately owned
Propaganda	Information (often false or biased) that is used to promote a particular viewpoint or cause
Public examinations	An exam (EG GCSE, A level) that is set by a central examining board
Qualitative data	This is research concerned with quality of feeling and emotion.
Quality press	Newspapers that cover serious news issues such as UK politics, world news the global economy and business
Quantitative data	Quantitative data is information that can be counted in some way.
Questionnaire	A set of structures, standardised questions
Quota sample	A sampling where an exact quota (number) are gained from certain categories eg youths, boys
Racial discrimination	This is when people treat you differently because of your cultural, religious or ethnic background.
Racism	Racism or racial discrimination occurs when people are treated differently and less favourably on the basis of their ethnicity
Random sample	A sample where each member of the population has an equal chance of being picked. E.g. names out of a hat
Reliability	Repeating a study to check if findings are consistent. Similar findings each time means the study is reliable
Representative data/sample	This reflects the characters of the population well and means that we are more likely to be able to generalise from a representative sample
Research	Collecting data in an organised way by certain methods; interview, observation, questionnaire
Respondent	The person who gives the information needed



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Education



Role conflict	When the demands of one of our roles conflict with another role eg a policewomen who is a mother to someone who has committed a crime
Roles	The pattern of behaviours that are acceptable behaviours for the person occupying that role
Rural	Country life, these are more sparsely populated than cities
Sample	Subgroup of the population who are selected for study
Sampling frame	A complete list of all the members of the population from which the sample are drawn. E.g. school register, sixth form students.
Sanctions	Rewards or punishments to those who conform or break rules
SATs	Assessment method used at the end of each key stage of schooling (no longer taken at KS3)
Secondary data	This is information that sociologists can use as evidence that already exists in one form or another. Someone else has collected the information and it is in a book or report.
Secondary socialisation	This is the kind of socialisation that takes place outside the family, education is a good example.
Selective schools	Where schools have some forma of criteria that need to be met in order for someone to go to that school.
Selective use of data	This is where a large amount of data is overlooked leading to supressing (hiding) evidence or 'cherry-picking' biased figures.
Self-fulfilling prophecy	This is where people who are labelled and begin to believe their label and behave as such, making the label true.
Setting in education	A way of dividing pupils into groups for particular subjects based on their ability in those subjects.
Sex (gender) discrimination	Treating someone less favourable or differently because of their gender
Sex (gender) equality	Treating people equally whatever their gender
Sexism	Discrimination based on gender or sex
Snowball sample	A researcher contacts one member of the population and this one person finds other people to study



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Education



Social change/changing social attitudes	A change in social attitudes, behaviours, norms, values and relationships
Social class/socio-economic class	Stratification that is based on economic factors such as occupation and income
Social cohesion	The idea that people in society should have a shared set of values and attitudes that help to unite society and bring people together
Social construct	Views of education are influenced by the values and norms of the society we live in. They are defined by society.
Social control (formal and informal)	Control or constraints over people's actions and behaviour from society or groups. This can be formal (based on laws and rules) or informal (via social pressure eg peers and family)
Social convention	The norms or accepted ways to behave in particular situations
Social exclusion	Being shut out or excluded from participating in societies social, economic, political and cultural life
Social inequality	The uneven distribution of resources such as money and power or of opportunities related to education and health
Social mobility	Movement up or down between the layers in society
Social network	A network of relatives and friends
Social order	This occurs when society is stable, ordered and smoothly run eg very little crime
Social stratification	The way society is divided in to hierarchies (strata) or layers. With the most privileged at the top and the least favourable at the bottom
Socialisation	The process where people learn the culture, norms and values of the group or society that they were born into.
Socially defined behaviour	Behaviour that is thought of as natural but is actually a product of cultural expectations.
Society	A group who share a culture or a way of life
Special school	A school for children who have some serious physical illness or mental illness



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Education



Specialist school	Centres of excellence in particular subject areas, such as languages or technology. They are intended to raise standards of teaching and learning in these areas.
Status	Social position in society e.g. occupations; policewomen, or families; mother or child. It can also be the amount of prestige in a role or position.
Stereotype	A fixed, standardised or distorted view of the characteristics of particular group such as women. Stereotypes are often based on prejudice
Subculture	A group with its own set of values and ways of behaviour which are distinctive from the generally accepted cultural values of society.
Survey	Research that is filled in by the respondent e.g. questionnaires and interviews where everyone answers the same set of questions
Systematic sample	A sampling technique that takes every nth item from the sampling frame for example every 10 th name from a register
Teacher expectations	Teachers are involved in making judgements and classifying students. These judgments might affect a child's chances of educational achievement
Technological change	Developments in technology (such as computers, IVF, mobiles)
Theoretical perspective	Ideas to explain the social world: functionalism, Marxism, feminism
Trend (in relation to data)	A general direction in which statistics on something change or move over time. E.g. the success of boys in schools
Triangulation (in relation to social research)	Cross-checking the findings from a qualitative method against the findings from a quantitative method
Tripartite system	Created by the 1944 Education Act, this system used the 11 plus test to identify student's ability levels. Students were then allocated to one of three types of school based on their tested abilities (grammar, secondary modern or technical)
Unrepresentative data/sample	A sample that does not reflect the characteristics of its population
Unstructured interview	Informal interviews that are like guided conversations based around a set of themes or points rather than a standardised interview schedule. It should gain rich qualitative data
Universal standards	The moral standards/norms and values that apply in wider society which might be different to the Particularistic standards learnt at home
Urban	Cities



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Education



Validity	Data is valid if it gives a true picture of what is being studied.
Value consensus	Agreement on values
Values	Beliefs and ideas about what is seen as desirable or worth striving for in a society. Values such as privacy and respect for life provide general guidelines for behaviour
Vocationalism in education (work related curriculum)	Work or career related education
Welfare state	A system which the state takes responsibility for protecting the health and welfare of its citizens and meeting their social needs. E.g. NHS, benefits
Working class	Working class is a group of people engaged in manual occupations
World view	Way of seeing the social world
Youth culture.	This is a set of fashions, values and shared norms that are typical of a group of young people such as punks or hippies

Social stratification key studies			
Study	Perspective	Research method	Findings
Davis and Moore (1945) theory of stratification	Functionalist	Work of other sociologists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Societies must allocate people to different roles – some roles are functionally important (essential for society eg doctors) – this is meritocratic These roles have high status and rewards to attract best people to them Stratification is necessary to ensure the most talented people get best jobs
Marx's theory of social class	Marxist	Work of other sociologists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Argues there are two main social classes: bourgeoisie and proletariat Bourgeoisie have more power- those than own means of production Proletariat are exploited and experience alienation – class conflict exists Bourgeoisie impose their ideology on working class and create false class consciousness
Weber's theory of social class	NA	Work of other sociologists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classes are formed in the labour market – a class is a group who have similar life chances 4 main classes: property owners, professionals, petty bourgeoisie, working class Classes based both on economic factors and status and power too
Weber's theory of power and authority	NA	Work of other sociologists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Power is based on coercion (use of threat/ violence) or authority (when someone obeys you as they think they should). 3 types of authority: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Charismatic authority (inspiring qualities) Traditional authority (based on tradition) Rational legal authority (based on a set of rules and laws which are accepted)
Devine's (1992) Affluent Workers revisited	NA	Intensive (unstructured) interviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revisited Luton to see how far WC life had changed – compared to Goldthorpe's Found WC lifestyles had not changed as much as Goldthorpe suggested Home life not purely home-centred and privatised, interviewees did not have a purely instrumental attitude to work, plenty of evidence of solidarity
Townsend's (1979) relative deprivation theory	NA	Face to face survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed a deprivation index to measure relative deprivation Found almost 23% of population were in poverty Much higher than 6% (state measure of poverty)
Murray's (1984) New Right perspective on poverty	New Right	Secondary sources including statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Argues welfare benefits create dependency – discouraging people to find work, and actually creating more poverty The underclass are a threat to society – a group who drain resources and do not work – associates it with rising crime and single-parent families
Walby's (1990) theory on patriarchy	Feminist	Work of other sociologists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patriarchy = a system of structures in which men dominate and exploit women - 6 Paid employment, household, culture, sexuality, male violence against women and the state



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Social Stratification



Absolute poverty	People in absolute poverty have incomes that are insufficient to obtain the minimum needed to survive
Achieved status	Social positions that are earned on the basis of personal talents or merits
Affluence	Having a lot of money and material possessions
Ageism	Discrimination based on age
Aristocracy	A class of privileged people who have hereditary titles such as Duke, Lady and who are usually wealthy landowners
Ascribed status	Social positions that are fixed at birth and unchanging over time including a hereditary title linked to family background
Assimilation	The process by which immigrants abandon their own culture and adapt their behaviour to fit the norms and values from the dominant culture
Asylum seeker	People who have left their country of origin and moved to another country in order to seek protection from persecution
Attitude survey	Being one-sided rather than neutral or open-minded. Bias can operate either in favour of or against an idea, group or point of view
Authority	The exercise of power based on consent or agreement
Bias	Being one-sided rather than neutral or open-minded. Bias can operate either in favour of or against an idea, group or point of view
Bourgeois	Relating to or belonging to the bourgeoisie
Bourgeoisie	The ruling class who own the means of production (eg factories, businesses, land) and exploit the proletariat in order to make huge profits
Bureaucracy	An organisation such as a government department that operates as a hierarchy with a clear set of rules.
Bureaucratic authority	Authority based on a set of rules that operate within a bureaucracy
Capitalism	An economic system that generates extreme wealth for the bourgeoisie
Capitalist	An economic system where the production of goods is organised for profit and sold to a free market.



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Social Stratification



Case study	A detailed study of a particular institution (e.g. school/ hospital) or a series of related events, such as the moral panic surrounding mods and rockers
Caste	An example of a stratification system linked to Hinduism and operating in India. People are born into a particular case or strata and their social position is ascribed at birth.
Censorship	The control of information and ideas in a society often via governmental control of the press, TV and other means of communication.
Census	A questionnaire survey conducted every 10 years to collect information in the UK on the whole population
Charismatic authority	Obedience based on a person's charisma or exceptional personal qualities
Class alignment	Strong links between class and voting behaviour with working class people voting labour and middle class people voting conservative
Class dealignment	Weakening of the links between social class and voting behaviour
Class struggle	In a capitalist society, class conflict occurs between the bourgeoisie (owners of means of production) and the proletariat (the working class) who have competing interests.
Classless society	A society in which there is no private ownership of property and so no social classes
Closed question	A fixed choice question that requires the respondent to choose between a number of given answers
Communism	A system involving communal ownership rather than individual ownership of private property
Community	A particular area and its residents (for example, the local community) or a group of people who share a sense of identity (for example, Manchesters Irish community).
Competition (in a variety of contexts)	A contest to become the best. Competition is encouraged in education to help improve standards
Confidentiality	An agreement to keep information about a participant private. It will only be accessed by the people who have authority to access it
Conformity	Behaviour that complies with or follows society's norms and values
Consensus	A broad agreement of norms and values
Constituency	A specific are in which the constituents elect and MP to represent them in parliament



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Social Stratification



Content analysis	The analysis of documents and images (e.g. media products) by creating a set of categories, coding sections of the content according to those categories and then counting the number of times a theme appears
Continuity	Lack of social change; social structures, values, norms, attitudes, behaviours and so on keep (remain) the same over time.
Covert observation	The researcher observes activities in order to study it but without informing its members that they
Culture of dependency	A way of life that is centred on dependence on welfare benefits
Cycle of deprivation	The idea that deprivation and poverty are passed on from parents to their children
Dark figure of crime	The amount of crime that does not appear in the statistics.
Data	Information collected and analysed during a research process
Data analysis	Interpreting or making sense of the information collected during research and summarising the main findings or results
Data protection	Research participants who are identifiable within the data held by researchers have legal protection and can ask to see the data.
Deferential	Behaving in a way that shows respect to someone such as an elder or superior
Dictatorship	Political power is concentrated in the hands of a dictator who rules by force
Direct action	A campaign to raise awareness on an issues such as climate change or tax avoidance. Tactics include occupying building such as a shop or banks
Discrimination	Less favourable or unfair treatment based. For example. On an individual's age, gender, ethnicity, class
Distribution (of power and of wealth)	The way in which power and wealth are shared out amongst different groups on society
Egalitarian	Based on the idea that people are equal
Elite	A group that has the most power in a society based on its wealth or privilege
Embourgeoisement	Working class families are becoming middle class in their norms and values as their incomes and standards of living improve
Emigration	The act of leaving ones country to live in another



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Social Stratification



Employment	The state of having paid work
Environmental poverty	A way of measuring deprivation in terms of conditions such as inadequate housing, lack of a garden, inadequate outdoor play facilities and air pollution.
Ethical considerations	Issues such as informed consent and confidentiality that sociologists must consider in order to conduct morally acceptable research.
Ethnic diversity	Having a range of different ethnic groups in a society
Ethnic group	A social group whose members share an identity based on their cultural traditions or cultural characteristics such as religion or language. Britain is home to a wide range of minority ethnic groups including those of Irish, Polish, Cypriot, Indian and African-Caribbean heritage.
Ethnic minority	A group within a community which has different national or cultural traditions from the main population.
Ethnicity	Cultural traditions, norms and values that distinguish the members of a particular social group from other cultures.
Ethnography	The study of peoples cultures and practices in everyday settings
Expectations	Hopes or beliefs about what something will be like, for example about what marriage will be or should be like
Economy	A system by which goods and services are produced, distributed and consumed in a region or country. EG capitalism and socialism.
False class consciousness	Subordinate groups (lower in ranking groups) such as the proletariat suffer from a false consciousness when they do not recognise that they are being exploited.
Fascism	Right wing political ideas based on racism and nationalism
Feminism	A movement that fights for gender equality in society. Feminists want equality in the power, status and rights of women and men in society.
Feminists	Sociologists who explore how gender operates in society and want gender equality
Feudalism	A stratification system in medieval Europe with the king or queen at the top, then Lords, the knights and the peasants at the bottom
First past the post (electoral system)	An electoral system based on winner takes all. The candidate with the highest number of votes wins the seat



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Social Stratification



Focus group	A type of group interview that focuses on one particular topic. It explores how people interact within the group and how they respond to each - others views.
Functionalism	An approach that seeks to explain the existence of social structures (education, religion) In terms of the functions or by the roles they perform in or for society.
Functionalists	A person who believes in functionalism
Functionally important roles	Key positions in society that provide essential functions and services and ensures societies survival over time.
Gatekeeper (mass media)	The media professional (programme controllers, editors and journalists) and owners wo decide what gets covered and how it is presented.
Gender	Socially constructed or cultural (not biological) differences between men and women that are associated with masculinity and femininity.
Gender roles	The behaviour of people expected for their gender and associated with masculinity and femininity
Glass ceiling (in relation to women in employment)	An invisible barrier to promotion faced by some groups including women
Hypothesis	A prediction that can be tested and either supported or refuted
Image	A representation or picture of a particular social group as presented eg of children from private schools or children form a state school
Immigrant	A person who has migrated to another country in order to live and work there
Immigration	The process of moving to another country in order to live and work there
Income	The flow of resources that individuals and households receive over a specified period of time. Income may be received in cash or in kind (e.g. petrol allowance)
Industrial dispute	A disagreement between employers and employees over issues such as hours, pay and work condition.
Informed consent	The research participant agrees to take part in the research once the sociologist has explained fully what the research is about and why it is being carried out.
Institutional racism	Where the structure and practises of an organisation such as the police, lead to a group being discriminated.



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Social Stratification



Interactionism	A perspective. Theory that focuses on how people interact on a daily basis. Interactionists describe social reality by interpreting the feelings and actions of the people involved.
Interest groups	A pressure group who share an interest and try to persuade the government to adopt a particular policy or to influence public opinion on an issue
Intergenerational	Between generations
Interview	A method used to collect data where an interviewer asks questions and the interviewee responds
Isolation (social and family)	The idea that the nuclear family has become more isolated or separated from the wider family
Left and right wing	A term to describe political parties, ideas and movements. Left wing includes communism and socialists, right-wing is conservatives and fascists.
Legal rational authority	A form of leadership in which the authority of an organization or a ruling regime is largely tied to legal rationality, legal legitimacy and bureaucracy. This means that a leader has to stick to the laws and most modern society has this type of thinking.
Liberal democratic values	A set of values (such as valuing freedom of speech, movement and information) associated with representative democracies
Life chances	An individual's chances of achieving positive or negative outcomes(e.g. health, education, housing) as they progress through life
Life expectancy	The average number of years a new born baby may be expected to live
Lifestyle	The way in which people live including their leisure and work patterns. Lifestyle is influenced by factors such as religion, age income and social class
Longitudinal study	A study of the same group of people conducted over a long period of time. After the initial survey or interview has taken place, follow up surveys or interviews are carried out at intervals over a number of years.
Lumpenproletariat	A social class made up of the 'drop-outs' and criminals of society
Male domination (of society)	The exercise of power and control by men over women in society – patriarchal society
Market situation (in relation to Weber on class)	Peoples position (e.g. their skills) in relation to the labour market. Weber saw class situation in terms of market situation.



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Social Stratification



Marxism	An approach which looks at the divisions in society based on the social class groups in the capitalist society.
Marxist	Someone who believes in Marxism
Mass media	Forms of communication (media) that reach large mass audiences, including newspapers, magazines, books, tv cinema and internet.
Means of production	The raw materials and tools used in the production process. Under capitalism, these include property, factories and machinery
Means testing	A means test is used to establish that a claimant is in financial need before they receive financial help from the state
Member of Parliament	A politician who has been elected to represent their constituents in the House of Commons
Meritocracy	A system in which individual achievements are based on their own talents and efforts rather than their social origins and backgrounds
Middle class	A social class made up of people who work in non-manual, managerial and professional occupations
Migration	The movement of people within nationally, from one region to another, or internationally, from one country to another
Mixed methods research	The use of different methods within one project to generate both quantitative and qualitative data.
Monarchy	A system with a queen or king as the head of state
Multiculturalism	The view that the cultural differences between and identities of the various groups in a culturally diverse society should be respected and maintained
Nation state	A nation state is a country where a distinct cultural or ethnic group inhabits a territory and have formed a state that they predominantly govern, instead of one that contains lots of different nationalities
Neo-conservatism	A political perspective that believes in the traditional values and aims to change the moral and cultural fabric of society
Neo-liberalism	Switching control from the public sector to the private sector. It allows for free market capitalisation.
New Right	A political perspective that believes that the influence of the state in society should be reduced and that the market should have more of a role, for example, the marketization of education. It also stresses the importance of traditional values such as self-reliance rather than relying on the welfare state.



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Social Stratification



New social movement	Loosely organised groups that aim to bring about social change. Examples include animal rights, environmental and gay rights groups. Many are global rather than national movements.
News value	Media professionals ideas about what issues and personalities are seen as newsworthy, topical or important
Non-participant observation	A research method in which a sociologists observes the group being studied but does not take part.
Norms	The rules that define appropriate and expected behaviour within a particular setting
Observation	A research method in which a sociologist gathers data by observing
Oligarchy	A small group of powerful individuals who control an organisation or a country usually to further their own interests.
Open question	A question that allows the respondents to put forward their own answer rather than choose a response.
Organised religion	This is a religion where belief systems are systematic and formally established. Sometimes referred to by the media as meaning the world's biggest religions
Participant observation	A qualitative research method where the researcher joins a group and takes part in its daily activities in order to study it
Patriarchy	A situation where men dominate society and its institutions.
Petty Bourgeoisie	A social class made up of owners of small businesses
Pluralism	An approach which argues that a range of views, interests and opinions exist in society and no one group dominates a political process
Political party	An organisation such as the labour or conservative party that has policies on a range of issues (such as education and crime) seeks to win an election and form a government
Political socialisation	The process by which people acquire their political beliefs, values and preferences. Agencies include the media, families and workplaces.
Popular press	The daily tabloid newspapers e.g. the sun that get large groups of readers



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Social Stratification



Poverty	Relative poverty (not having the luxuries that most other people around you can afford)
Poverty trap	People can be trapped in poverty if an increase in income reduces the benefits they are entitled to. For example, an employed person receiving means-tested benefits could be worse off after a wage rise if they now earn too much to qualify for benefits.
Power	In social relationships between individuals (for example. Between spouses or parents and children) or groups, power usually refers to the dominance and control of one individual or group over others.
Prejudice	A prejudgment in favour of, or against a person, group or issue. Prejudice involves opinions and beliefs rather than action.
Pressure group	An interest group who share an interest and try to persuade the government to adopt a particular policy or to influence public opinion on an issue
Primary data	Information and data that is gathered and collected first-hand by doing research using techniques such as questionnaires, interviews or observation
Prime Minister	A politician who is head of the UK government
Privatisation (economy)	The transfer of a business, industry, or service from public to private ownership and control. E.g. trains used to be in public control and now they are privately owned
Proletarianisation	The idea that clerical workers have experienced downward mobility into the working class. Their work has become less skilled and more routine and now resembles factory work
Proletariat	Wage labourers who do not own any means of production and live by selling their labour to the bourgeoisie for wages
Propaganda	Information (often false or biased) that is used to promote a particular viewpoint or cause
Proportional representation	Under this electoral system, seats are allocated according to the total number of vote that each party receives
Qualitative data	Information presented in visual or verbal form, detailed and in depth (rich data) Research methods designed to collect and analyse data in the form of words rather than numbers
Quality press	Newspapers that cover serious news issues such as UK politics, world news the global economy and business
Quantitative data	Information presented in numerical form



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Social Stratification



Questionnaire	A set of structures, standardised questions
Quota sample	A sampling where an exact quota (number) are gained from certain categories eg youths, boys
Racial discrimination	Racism or racial discrimination occurs when people are treated differently and less favourably on the basis of their ethnicity
Racism	Racism or racial discrimination occurs when people are treated differently and less favourably on the basis of their ethnicity
Random sample	A sample where each member of the population has an equal chance of being picked. E.g. names out of a hat
Relative deprivation	Lacking material resources compared to other people in society
Relative income standard of poverty	A measure of poverty based on how much income a household has compared to other households. One way would be to put households in tank order according to their income and then identify 10% of households with the lowest incomes
Relative poverty	People in relative poverty cannot afford to meet the general standard of living that meets most other people in their society
Reliability	Repeating a study to check if findings are consistent. Similar findings each time means the study is reliable
Representative data/sample	This reflects the characters of the population well and means that we are more likely to be able to generalise from a representative sample
Research	Collecting data in an organised way by certain methods; interview, observation, questionnaire
Respondent	The person who gives the information needed
Role conflict	When the demands of one of our roles conflict with another role eg a policewomen who is a mother to someone who has committed a crime
Roles	The pattern of behaviours that are acceptable behaviours for the person occupying that role
Ruling class ideology	A set of dominant ideas in society that distort reality and serve the interests of the bourgeoisie
Sample	Subgroup of the population who are selected for study
Sampling frame	A complete list of all the members of the population from which the sample are drawn. E.g. school register, sixth form students.
Secondary data	Information that already exists or has been previously generated or collected by other people e.g. official statistics, mass media, other studies



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Social Stratification



Selective benefits	Means-tested welfare benefits that are targeted at those in greatest financial need rather than available to everyone, regardless of income and savings
Selective use of data	This is where a large amount of data is overlooked leading to suppressing (hiding) evidence or 'cherry-picking' biased figures.
Sex (gender) discrimination	Treating someone less favourable or differently because of their gender
Sex (gender) equality	Treating people equally whatever their gender
Sexism	Discrimination based on gender or sex
Slavery	A form of stratification in which one group claims the right to own another group and treat them as property
Snowball sample	A researcher contacts one member of the population and this one person finds other people to study
Social change/changing social attitudes	A change in social attitudes, behaviours, norms, values and relationships
Social class/socio-economic class	Stratification that is based on economic factors such as occupation and income
Social cohesion	The idea that people in society should have a shared set of values and attitudes that help to unite society and bring people together
Social construct	View of what is criminal or deviant behaviour are influenced by the values and norms of the society we live in. They are defined by society.
Social control (formal and informal)	Control or constraints over people actions and behaviour
Social exclusion	Being shut out or excluded from participation in society's social, economic, political and cultural life
Social inequality	The uneven distribution of resources such as money and power or of opportunities related to education and health
Social mobility	Movement up or down between the layers in society



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Social Stratification



Social network	A network of relatives and friends
Social order	This occurs when society is stable, ordered and smoothly run e.g. very little crime
Social security	A government system that provides monetary assistance to people with an inadequate or no income.
Social stratification	The way society is divided into hierarchies (strata) or layers. With the most privileged at the top and the least favourable at the bottom
Socialisation	The process where people learn the culture, norms and values of the group or society that they were born into.
Socialism	A system in which capital, land, factories and so on are not owned and controlled by a few private individuals but are owned by the community as a whole
Society	A group who share a culture or a way of life
State standard of poverty	A measure of poverty based on the rates paid by the state, the level at which people are entitled to claim state benefits.
Status	Social position in society e.g. occupations; policemen, or families; mother or child. It can also be the amount of prestige in a role or position.
Subjective class	How people see or identify themselves in class terms
Subjective poverty	When people see themselves as being poor
Surplus wealth	
Survey	Research that is filled in by the respondent e.g. questionnaires and interviews where everyone answers the same set of questions
Systematic sample	A sampling technique that takes every nth item from the sampling frame for example every 10 th name from a register
Technological change	Developments in technology (such as computers, IVF, mobiles)
Theoretical perspective	Ideas to explain the social world: functionalism, Marxism, feminism



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Social Stratification



Trade union	An organisation of employees or workers that protects and promotes its members' interests in the workplace
Traditional authority	A type of authority in which obedience is based on custom and tradition
Trend (in relation to data)	A general direction in which statistics on something change or move over time. Eg the divorce rate, birth rates, marriage rates.
Triangulation (in relation to social research)	Cross-checking the findings from a qualitative method against the findings from a quantitative method
Underclass	This term can refer to a group whose norms and values are different from those of mainstream society. It can also refer to people who experience long-term poverty and who are unable to earn a living
Under-employment	A situation in which workers are employed at less than full time and are willing and available to work more hours than they currently do
Unemployment	A situation in which people do not have jobs but are actively seeking work and available to start work
Universal benefits	Welfare benefits that are available to everyone, regardless of their income and savings, rather than targeted at those in most financial need
Unrepresentative data/sample	A sample (subgroup) than does not reflect the characteristics of its population
Unstructured interview	Informal interviews that are like guided conversations based around a set of themes or points rather than a standardised interview schedule. It should gain rich qualitative data
Upper class	A social class made up of the rich and powerful, particularly those who have inherited wealth.
Validity	Data is valid if it gives a true picture of what is being studied.
Value	Beliefs and ideas about what is seen as desirable or worth striving for in a society. Values such as privacy and respect for life provide general guidelines for behaviour
Value consensus	Agreement on values
Wage	A daily, weekly or monthly income that an employee earns from paid work
Wealth	Ownership of assets such as property, land and works of art as well as money held in savings account and shares in companies



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Social Stratification



Welfare benefits	Financial support such as income support provided by the state to help those in need
Welfare reform	Changes to the way the welfare system operates, for instance cutting or replacing state benefits
Welfare scrounger/benefit cheat	People who claim benefits they are not entitled to
Welfare state	A system which the state takes responsibility for protecting the health and welfare of its citizens and meeting their social needs. E.g. NHS, benefits
White collar worker	People in clerical, administrative or managerial jobs
Work life balance	Getting priorities right between career (e.g. hours spent in the office) and lifestyles (eg having time for family, leisure and health)
Working class	Working class is a group of people engaged in manual occupations
World view.	A perspective on, or way of seeing society and the social world

Crime Key Studies			
Study	Perspective	Research method	Findings
Merton's (1938) strain theory	Functionalist	Work of other sociologists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People's aspirations and goals are shaped by their culture eg American Dream = economic success • Some people experience a strain between the goals of society and the means of achieving them. This may lead to anomie (normlessness) • They may seek out an illegitimate route to economic success eg crime
Becker's (1963) interactionist perspective	Interactionist	Work of other sociologists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argues deviance is created by society • Powerful social groups create deviance by making the rules and applying these to others • People can develop deviant careers if labelled as deviant • The deviant label can become a master status (main identity) • Labelling can lead to the self-fulfilling prophecy
Heidensohn's (1985) control theory	Feminist	Data from her study of delinquent girls; secondary sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women commit less crime because they are more closely controlled in society • In a patriarchal society, women have stronger social control placed on them which can reduce opportunities for crime • At home, women are controlled by domestic responsibilities, at work by fear of damaging reputation and in public by fear of male violence
Carlen's (1988) class and gender deal	Feminist	Unstructured interviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carlen explains why working-class women commit crime • She argues they are promised two rewards for conforming- 'class deal' (money and material items from working hard) and 'gender deal' (happy domestic life with husband and children) • She found WC women committed crime when these rewards were blocked due to: poverty, living in care, drug addiction. • They had nothing to lose and everything to gain
Cohen's (1955) subcultural theory	Functionalist	Work of other sociologists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argues delinquency is carried out by groups not individuals, and that groups often commit non-utilitarian (not motivated by money) crimes • Working class boys experience status frustration at not succeeding in middle class school • They join/ form a delinquent subculture with an alternative status hierarchy where they will gain status for deviance



Agenda setting (and the media in relation to crime/deviance)	The ability of the media to focus public attention on particular topics and thereby direct public discussions and debate onto these topics
Agent of social control	An individual or group that is responsible for ensuring members of society conform to socially acceptable behaviour.
Alienation	Under capitalism, the workers feel estranged or cut off from their work because they have no control over the production or the products and result of their labour.
Anomie	A situation where large numbers of people fail to follow the generally accepted norms and values.
Anti-social behaviour	Behaviour that causes harassment distress or alarm to other people
Attitude survey	A social survey that measures respondents' views and thoughts on a particular issue/ issues
Bias	Being one-sided rather than neutral or open-minded. Bias can operate either in favour of or against an idea, group or point of view
Case study	A detailed study of a particular institution (eg school/ hospital) or a series of related events, such as the moral panic surrounding mods and rockers
Capitalist Society	An economic system where the production of goods is organised for profit and sold to a free market.
CCTV	A television system often used for surveillance.
Chivalry thesis	The belief that the police and courts are easier on women because they are male dominated.
Crime	Behaviour that breaks the law.
Control theory	The idea that women commit less crime because they are controlled in the home, public and at work so have less opportunity to commit crime
Confidentiality	An agreement that all information (for example, from research participants) will only be accessed by those who have the authority to access it.



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Crime and deviance



Conformity	Behaviour that complies with or follows societies norms and values
Consensus	Broad agreement on norms and values
Content analysis	The analysis of documents and images (eg meadia products) by creating a set of categories, coding sections of the content according to those categories and then counting the number of times a theme appears
Continuity	Lack of social change; social structures, values, norms, attitudes, behaviours and so on keep (remain) the same over time.
Control theory (in relation to women and crime)	An approach that focuses on why most people conform. People are seen as behaving in a rational way and are controlled through a deal that offers them rewards for conforming. They are likely to conform when they think the rewards are worth it.
Corporate crime	Crimes committed by employees on behalf of the company or organization they work for. Examples include the manufacture and sale of unsafe products
Covert (participant) observation	The researcher joins a group, observes and participates in its activities in order to study it but without informing its members that they are doing the research
Crime	An illegal act (such as shoplifting or murder) that is punishable by law
Crime rate	A measure of crime in terms of the number of incident of a particular crime per specified number of adults per specified number of adults over a given period. For example, 8 car thefts



	per 1000 adults
Criminal justice system	Criminal Justice is the system of practices and institutions of governments directed at upholding social control, deterring crime, or sanctioning those who violate laws with criminal penalties. It includes police and courts.
Criminal subculture	A social group whose members' values and behaviour involve breaking the law.
Dark figure of crime	The amount of crime that does not appear in the statistics.
Data	Information collected and analysed during a research process
Data analysis	Interpreting or making sense of the information collected during research and summarising the main findings or results
Data protection	Research participants who are identifiable within the data held by researchers have legal protection and can ask to see the data.
Delinquency	Minor crime and deviance usually committed by young people
Deviance	Behaviour that does not conform to society's norms and values and if detected, is likely to lead to negative sanctions. Deviance can be – but is not necessarily illegal
Deviancy amplification	The process whereby public and media reaction to deviance leads to an increase in or amplifies deviance by provoking more of the same behaviour



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Crime and deviance



Deviant career	The process by which individuals come to see themselves as deviant and possibly join a deviant subculture.
Discrimination	Less favourable or unfair treatment based. For example. On an individual's age, gender, ethnicity, class
Double Deviance theory	This is where women are treated more harshly than men in court. They are treated as double deviants; they have broken two sets of rules: first the law and second the norms of how females are 'expected' to behave.
Economy	A system by which goods and services are produced, distributed and consumed in a region or country. EG capitalism and socialism.
Established (state) church	The church of England is the established church in England. It is linked to the state and the monarch is its supreme governor
Ethical considerations	Issues such as informed consent and confidentiality that sociologists must consider in order to conduct morally acceptable research.
Ethnic diversity	Having a range of different ethnic groups in a society
Ethnic group	A social group whose members share an identity based on their cultural traditions or cultural characteristics such as religion or language. Britain is home to a wide range of minority ethnic groups including those of Irish, Polish, Cypriot, Indian and African-Caribbean heritage.
Ethnic minority	A group within a community which has different national or cultural traditions from the main population.
Ethnicity	Cultural traditions, norms and values that distinguish the members of a particular social group from other cultures.



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Crime and deviance



Ethnography	The study of peoples cultures and practices in everyday settings
Expectations	Hopes or beliefs about what something will be like, for example about what marriage will be or should be like
Feminism	A movement that fights for gender equality in society. Feminists want equality in the power, status and rights of women and men in society.
Feminists	Sociologists who explore how gender operates in society and wants gender equality
Focus group interviews	A type of group interview that focuses on one particular topic. It explores how people interact within the group and how they respond to each - others views.
Folk devils	Groups targeted by a moral panic e.g. hoodies
Functionalism	An approach that seeks to explain the existence of social structures (education, religion) In terms of the functions or by the roles they perform in or for society.
Functionalists	A person who believes in functionalism
Functionally important roles	Key positions in society that provide essential functions and services and ensures societies survival over time.
Fundamentalism	A belief in the literal interpretation of religious scriptures



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Crime and deviance



Gender	Socially constructed or cultural (not biological) differences between men and women that are associated with masculinity and femininity.
Gender and criminality	Women are less likely to offend than men according to official statistics
Gender deal (in relation to working-class women)	A 'deal' that offers women emotional and material rewards in return for living with a male breadwinner in the family
Gender roles	The behaviour of people expected for their gender and associated with masculinity and femininity
Hypothesis	A prediction that can be tested and either supported or refuted
Identity	How we see ourselves and how others see us. Sources of identity may include: gender, age, ethnicity, social class, religion and sexuality. It can also refer to your name and address
Identity Theft	When someone misuses another individual's personal information (e.g., name, passport, financial account information, or driver's license number) to commit fraud
Image	A representation or picture of a particular social group as presented, for example, in the mass media. Media images of some groups are often distorted.
Indictable offence	Serious crimes, where if a person is found guilty they are likely to go to prison.



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Crime and deviance



Informed consent	The research participant agrees to take part in the research once the sociologist has explained fully what the research is about and why it is being carried out.
Injustice	Lack of fairness eg someone wrongly convicted in court
Institutional racism	Where the structure and practises of an organisation such as the police, lead to a group being discriminated.
Intelligence quotient	A persons IQ: a number representing a person's reasoning ability (measured using problem-solving tests) as compared to the statistical norm or average for their age, taken as 100.
Interactionism	A perspective. Theory that focuses on how people interact on a daily basis. Interactionists describe social reality by interpreting the feelings and actions of the people involved.
Interview	A method used to collect data where an interviewer asks questions and the interviewee responds
Judiciary	Judges and magistrates who sit in court and apply the law
Labelling	The process of attaching a label, characteristic
Ladette	A young woman who behaves in a crude manner and engages in heavy drinking sessions.
Law	The rules and norms of a society that we must follow to avoid being punished



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Crime and deviance



Legislation	This can refer to a law or a set of laws that the government makes and it can also refer to the process of making laws
Legislative process	The process of making laws
Legislature	The body in a country or state that has the authority to make or change the laws. In the UK, parliament has authority to make laws
Life chances	An individual's chances of achieving positive or negative outcomes(e.g. health, education, housing) as they progress through life
Longitudinal study	A study of the same group of people conducted over a long period of time. After the initial survey or interview has taken place, follow up surveys or interviews are carried out at intervals over a number of years.
Magistrate	A volunteer who sits in the magistrates court and deals with less serious crime
Male domination (of society)	The exercise of power and control by men over women in society – patriarchal society
Marxism	An approach which looks at the divisions in society based on the social class groups in the capitalist society.
Marxist	Someone who believes in Marxism
Mass media	Forms of communication (media) that reach large mass audiences, including newspapers, magazines, books, tv cinema and internet.



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Crime and deviance



Master status	A state such as a junkie or a thief that over-rides all of an individual's other statuses such as daughter or employee
Media amplification	The media distorts or exaggerates what is actually going on and creates a false image of activities. This can actually increase (amplify) the deviance in society.
Media stereotype	A stereotype may be defined as a popular belief about specific social/ethnic groups (usually negative) or types of individuals and it is broadly standardized or simplified conceptions of groups based on some prior assumptions. These can be shown in the media.
Miscarriage of justice	When a court fails to administer justice by finding an innocent person guilty of a crime
Mixed methods research	The use of different methods within one project to generate both quantitative and qualitative data.
Moral panic	A media fuelled over-reaction to social group eg Hoodies who are known as the folk devils.
News value	Media professional ideas about what issues and which people are seen as newsworthy
Negative Sanctions	Punishments eg formal (fines) informal (frowned at)
Non-indictable offence	A non-indictable offense, is an offence for which no Grand Jury indictment is necessary or required in order to proceed with prosecution. These are typically traffic laws and misdemeanor crimes



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Crime and deviance



Non-participant observation	A research method in which a sociologists observes the group being studied but does not take part.
Norms	The rules that define appropriate and expected behaviour within a particular setting
Observation	A research method in which a sociologist gathers data by observing
Official crime statistics	The way crime is officially measured, based on statistics collected by the Home Office.
Open (ended) question	A question that allows the respondents to put forward their own answer rather than choose a response.
Participant observation	A qualitative research method where the researcher joins a group and takes part in its daily activities in order to study it
Peer group pressure	Where someone is influenced by their group of friends to behave in a certain way.
Pluralism	An approach which argues that a range of views, interests and opinions exist in society and no one group dominates a political process
Police caution	A warning given to someone who has committed a minor crime such as graffiti
Popular press	The daily tabloid newspapers e.g. the sun that get large groups of readers



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Crime and deviance



Poverty (linked to crime)	Relative poverty (not having the luxuries that most other people around you can afford) can lead to crime to get those luxuries.
Primary data	Information and data that is gathered and collected first-hand by doing research using techniques such as questionnaires, interviews or observation
Prison system	A part of the criminal justice system that detains convicted offenders who have been given a prison sentence
Privatisation (economy)	The transfer of a business, industry, or service from public to private ownership and control. E.g. trains used to be in public control and now they are privately owned
Probation system	Part of the criminal justice system that is responsible for supervising high-risk offenders who have been released into the community.
Propaganda	Information (often false or biased) that is used to promote a particular viewpoint or cause
Qualitative data	Information presented in visual or verbal form, detailed and in depth (rich data) Research methods designed to collect and analyse data in the form of words rather than numbers
Quality press	Newspapers that cover serious news issues such as UK politics, world news the global economy and business
Quantitative data	Information presented in numerical form
Questionnaire	A set of structures, standardised questions
Quota sample	A sampling where an exact quota (number) are gained from



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Crime and deviance



	certain categories eg youths, boys
Racial discrimination	Racism or racial discrimination occurs when people are treated differently and less favourably on the basis of their ethnicity
Racism	Racism or racial discrimination occurs when people are treated differently and less favourably on the basis of their ethnicity
Random sample	A sample where each member of the population has an equal chance of being picked. E.g. names out of a hat
Recorded crime	Crime that is recorded by the police
Reliability	Repeating a study to check if findings are consistent. Similar findings each time means the study is reliable
Reported crime	Crime that is reported to the police.
Representative data/sample	This reflects the characters of the population well and means that we are more likely to be able to generalise from a representative sample
Research	Collecting data in an organised way by certain methods; interview, observation, questionnaire
Respondent	The person who gives the information needed
Right of appeal	A person who is found guilty of a criminal offence has a right to appeal against or challenge the verdict.
Role conflict	When the demands of one of our roles conflict with another role eg a policewoman who is a mother to someone who has



	committed a crime
Roles	The pattern of behaviours that are acceptable behaviours for the person occupying that role
Rural	Country life, these are more sparsely populated than cities
Sample	Subgroup of the population who are selected for study
Sampling frame	A complete list of all the members of the population from which the sample are drawn. E.g. school register, sixth form students.
Sanctions	Rewards or punishments to those who conform or break rules
Scapegoat	A group or an individual who are blamed for something that is not their fault
Secondary data	Information that already exists or has been previously generated or collected by other people e.g. official statistics, mass media, other studies
Selective use of data	This is where a large amount of data is overlooked leading to supressing (hiding) evidence or 'cherry-picking' biased figures.
Self-fulfilling prophecy	This is where people who are labelled and begin to believe their label and behave as such, making the label true.
Self-report study	Surveys of the public which ask them to confess to crime they have committed but for which they have not been caught.



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Crime and deviance



Sex (gender) discrimination	Treating someone less favourable or differently because of their gender
Sex (gender) equality	Treating people equally whatever their gender
Sexism	Discrimination based on gender or sex
Snowball sample	A researcher contacts one member of the population and this one person finds other people to study
Social change/changing social attitudes	A change in social attitudes, behaviours, norms, values and relationships
Social class/socio-economic class	Stratification that is based on economic factors such as occupation and income
Social cohesion	The idea that people in society should have a shared set of values and attitudes that help to unite society and bring people together
Social construct	View of what is criminal or deviant behaviour are influenced by the values and norms of the society we live in. They are defined by society.
Social control (formal and informal)	Control or constraints over people actions and behaviour
Social convention	The norms or accepted ways to behave in particular situations
Social exclusion	Being shut out or excluded from participation in society's social, economic, political and cultural life



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Crime and deviance



Social order	This occurs when society is stable, ordered and smoothly run e.g. very little crime
Social Stigma	The extreme disapproval of (or discontent with) a person or group on socially characteristic grounds
Social stratification	The way society is divided in to hierarchies (strata) or layers. With the most privileged at the top and the least favourable at the bottom
Socialisation	The process where people learn the culture, norms and values of the group or society that they were born into.
Socially defined behaviour	Behaviour that is thought of as natural but is actually a product of cultural expectations.
Society	A group who share a culture or a way of life
Status	Social position in society e.g. occupations; policewomen, or families; mother or child. It can also be the amount of prestige in a role or position.
Status frustration	Cohen suggested that W/C boys get this when they fail to meet M/C expectations (e.g. teachers are middle class and have M/C expectations)
Stereotype	A fixed, usually negative view of the characteristics of a particular group e.g. ethnic groups, or women
Sub-culture	A group with its own set of values and ways of behaviour which are distinctive from the generally accepted cultural values of society.
Surveillance	Is the monitoring of the behaviour of people and objects within society.
Survey	Research that is filled in by the respondent e.g. questionnaires and interviews where everyone answers the same set of



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Crime and deviance



	questions
Systematic sample	A sampling technique that takes every nth item from the sampling frame for example every 10 th name from a register
Technological change	Developments in technology (such as computers, IVF, mobiles)
Terrorism	Using violence or threats to coerce others in to certain behaviours – usually for a political gain
Theoretical perspective	Ideas to explain the social world: functionalism, Marxism, feminism
Trend (in relation to data)	A general direction in which statistics on something change or move over time. Eg the divorce rate, birth rates, marriage rates.
Triangulation (in relation to social research)	Cross-checking the findings from a qualitative method against the findings from a quantitative method
Unrepresentative data/sample	A sample that does not reflect the characteristics of its population
Unstructured interview	Informal interviews that are like guided conversations based around a set of themes or points rather than a standardised interview schedule. It should gain rich qualitative data
Unwritten rules	Informal rules or taken for granted rules of how we are expected to behave in particular settings
Urban	Cities



Key terms and concepts GCSE sociology- Crime and deviance



Validity	Data is valid if it gives a true picture of what is being studied.
Value consensus	Agreement on values
Values	Beliefs and ideas about what is seen as desirable or worth striving for in a society. Values such as privacy and respect for life provide general guidelines for behaviour
Victim surveys	Surveys of the public which ask them to report any crime they have experienced, whether or not they have reported them.
Welfare scrounger/benefit cheat	People who claim benefits that they are not entitled to
White collar crime	Criminal acts committed by middle-class people in the course of their work.
World view	A perspective on, or way of seeing society and the social world
Youth crime	Criminal offences committed by young people