



# Salvatorian Sixth Form

## A Level Sociology Transition Booklet



Name: .....

Teacher: Mr D Evans

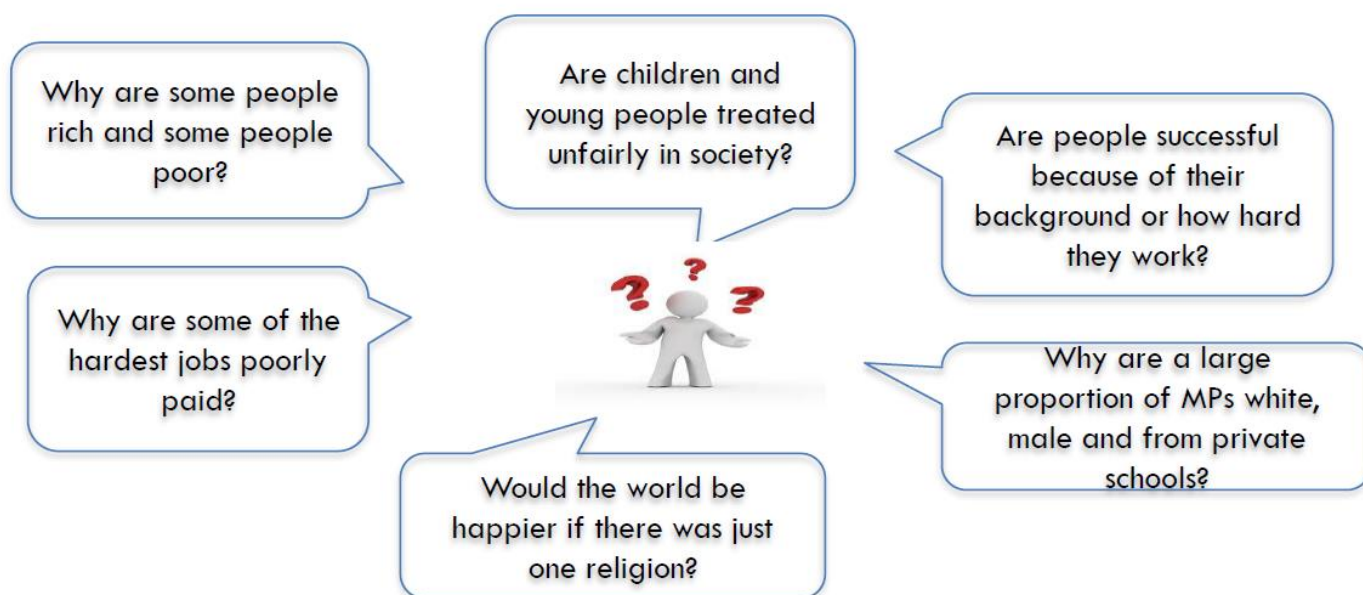
## Introduction:

Sociology is the study of human groups and social life in modern societies. Sociology recognises that as members of society we have to learn social behaviour and this is done through a variety of social institutions and social groups throughout our lives. Sociology is the systematic and often scientific study of the social world around us and emerged during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century in the wake of the industrial revolution, when societies changed from being agricultural to industrial ones.

A theory, for our purpose, is something that explains the relationship between two or more things. A perspective can be defined as a way of looking at and seeing something. To have a perspective, therefore, means to look at something (whatever that thing might be) in a particular way. When we talk about the sociological perspective, therefore, we are talking about the particular way those sociologists, as opposed to non-sociologists to try to understand human social behaviour.

### Is sociology for me?

Yes, if you're interested in questions like these...



What will I study?

Year 1	Year 2
Socialisation, culture and identity Families and relationships Research methods Researching social inequalities Understanding social inequalities	Globalisation and the digital social world Crime and deviance

# QUIZ

What kind of Sociologist will you be? Circle the answer you agree with the most.

1. The defining characteristic of human behaviour is:

- A) Their gender/ sex
- B) Their social class
- C) Their Race
- D) Their integration into society
- E) Their culture



2. We have the freedom to choose our own behaviour

- A) Yes
- B) No
- C) Depends
- D) Doesn't matter
- E) What is freedom?



10 minutes

3. What are your views on the family....

- A) Family is oppressive to women and teaches us to conform to gender roles
- B) Family is a tool of the ruling class teaching us to obey authority
- C) Family is a vital part of socialisation that teaches us norms and values
- D) Family is what you make it, everyone has a different view on it
- E) Family – what is a family? You can't define it

4. When it comes to inequality

- A) Gender is the most serious issue!
- B) Money and power the rich exploit the poor!
- C) Inequality is normal part of society
- D) Inequality is a label that has different meanings to people
- E) You make your own reality up

5. When it comes to Crime

- A) The justice system is more lenient on women
- B) Criminal laws protect the rich and powerful
- C) Crime is good for society as it reminds us of the rules
- D) Crimes are actions labelled as wrong to influence our behaviour
- E) Crime – what is a crime? Can we really define what a crime is?

6. When it comes to religion

- A) Religion oppresses and controls women – telling us to cover up and be obedient
- B) Religion is a tool used by those with power to control us
- C) Religion is a useful institution which unites people who share a common set of beliefs
- D) Religion means different things to different people
- E) Religion is just another meta-narrative (big story) people use to explain reality

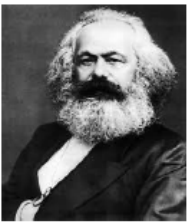
## Quiz Answers: What kind of Sociologist will you be?

### Mostly A – Feminist



You are most likely to turn into our Feminist Sue Sharpe. Feminism looks at how society is structured in a way that benefits men while oppressing women – this is known as patriarchy (male domination.). The theory is often a misunderstood as stereotypes and misconceptions about it exists. Many people do not realise that there are several types of feminism such as black, radical feminism and liberal.

### Mostly B – Marxist



You are most likely to turn into Karl Marx. Marxism looks at how society is constructed is a way that produces class conflict with the rich having all the power and control whilst the poor are oppressed. Marx argues that the root cause of class inequality is down to capitalism as it encourages people to be greedy and materialistic. Just as capitalism replaced feudalism, Marx argues that capitalism will one day be replaced with communism

### Mostly C- Functionalist



You are most likely to turn into Emile Durkheim. Functionalism is theory which argues that members of society are united together by a shared set of idea and beliefs called 'norms' (normal behaviour.) These norms are accepted by all members in society and are enforced by structures such as family and education. They see society like a human body – with all parts needed in order for it to 'function' and work effectively.

### Mostly D- Interactionist



You are most likely to turn into Becker. Interactionism looks at how people create meaning during social interactions, how they present and construct the self (or identity) as well as how they define situations. One of the perspectives key ideas is that people act the way they do because of how they define situations. Becker uses the example of nudity to illustrate how timing, place and audience can influence how people see an action or idea.

### Mostly E – Post-Modernist



You are most likely to turn into Foucault. Post-modernism is a more recent Sociological theory which seeks to question and de-construct existing structures and understandings of reality. Post modernism rejects the idea that one theory such as functionalism, Utilitarianism, religion or even science can explain reality!



# Theory is a big part of Sociology

## Task 1 Functional Functionalists

Read the blog posts below and answer the questions.

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/blog/meet-the-perspectives-functionalism-part-1>

1. Which Frenchman is renowned for Functionalism?
2. Why was he interested in social changes from the move between preindustrial society and modern industrial society?
3. What do you think a 'collective conscious' is?

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/blog/meet-the-perspectives-functionalism-part-2>

4. What is society compared to in the organic analogy?
5. What is meant by the organic analogy?
6. What are the two mechanisms for ensuring individuals conform to shared norms of society according to Parsons? (Outline and explain each)

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/blog/meet-the-perspectives-functionalism-part-3>

7. What is one strength of Functionalism as a theory?
8. What is one weakness of Functionalism as a theory?

## Task 2 Fiery Feminists

1. Research @ or #EverydaySexism
  - a. What is the project?
  - b. What examples do they give of modern sexism?
  - c. Do you think sexism is still a problem today? Why?
  - d. Do ALL women have the experience? Explain your answer.
2. Research examples of gender inequality within the UK in contemporary society.



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## Task 3 Magnificent Marxists

Watch YouTube clip and answer the questions:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0GFSUu5UzA>



1. Is society based on conflict or consensus? Explain your answer.
2. What is communism according to Marx?
3. What is capitalism?
4. When was Marx formulating his theory? Why is this important?
5. Who are the Proletariat?
6. Who are the Bourgeoisie?
7. How would the working class change society?
8. What would the new economic/political arrangement be called?

## Task 4 Sensational Social Action Theorists

Watch YouTube clip and answer the questions:

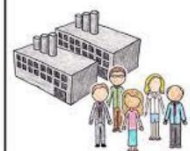
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJrnwOPC2f8>



MACRO



MICRO



1. What is meant by social action theory?
2. How do we decide meanings behind actions/events?
3. Who is the main theorist?
4. Who focuses on labelling?
5. What is labelling?
6. What can labelling lead to?

# Theory is a big part of Sociology

## Task 5 Passionate Postmodernists

Postmodernism is an approach that attempts to define how society has progressed to an era beyond modernity. Within this era individuals are more likely to have a greater importance placed on science and rational thought as traditional metanarratives no longer provide a reasonable explanation for postmodern life.



Watch YouTube clip and summarise some of the key features of postmodern society. Ensure you use key terms. E.g., hybridity.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QqsP0vQJJ44&playnext=1&list=PLA09D91AD0BA40476>

## Task 6 Theory Finale

Out of the 5 theories you have researched, which Sociological theory do you most and least agree with and why? Explain your reasons in detail making sure you explain what it was about that particular theory (at least two sides of A4)!

We will send out answers to tasks 1-5 during your first week and we will take this analysis (task 6) in during your first lesson to assess your literacy skills and engagement with the activity.

Remember, we are not expecting you to be experts in theory at this stage. Just try your best to write in developed paragraphs. You may wish to do your own further research into the sociological theories, use statistics and evidence to support your answers.

# **Suggested Resource Lists**

At AS and A Level Sociology it is expected that you have been partaking in wider reading. Below is a list of books/journals and Film/TV that you could use over the next two years to support you with your A Level Sociology studies.

The list includes a range of materials for each exam board. Use your local library, online libraries or ask at your local colleges and universities if you can access the books through their libraries.

## **A Level Sociology Textbook Suggestions:**

OCR Sociology for A Level Book 1, Sue Brisbane (2015)

OCR Sociology for A Level Book 2, Sue Brisbane (2016)

OCR A Level Sociology Revision Notes: Hodder Education (2015)

## **Pre-course Wider Reading Suggestions for Sociology A Level: Non-Fiction**

'The Sociology Review', A Level magazine: Hodder Education.

Ain't I a Woman? Black Women and Feminism, Bell Hooks (1981)

Black Like Me, John Howard Griffin (1961)

Freakonomics, Steven D. Levitt & Steven J. Dubner (2006)

Chavs: The Demonisation of the Working Class, Owen Jones (2011)

Gang Leader for a Day, Sudhir Venkatesh (2009)

Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity, Judith Butler (1990)

Respectable: The Experience of Class, Lynsey Hanley (2016) The Call of the Weird: Travels in American Subcultures, Louis Theroux (2005)

The Nonsense of Free Will: Facing Up to a False Belief, Richard Oerton (2012)

Watching the English: the Hidden Rules of English Behaviour, Kate Fox (2004)

## **Documentaries/TV**

Back to School with Mum and Dad (BBC)

Black and British: A Forgotten History (BBC)

Beyond the Asylum (BBC)

Harrow: A Very British School (Sky1)

Educating Essex (Channel 4)

Secret Life of Four-Year-Olds (Channel 4)

The Doctor Who Gave Up Drugs (BBC)

## **Film**

Catfish (2010)

Billy Elliott (2000)

Dangerous Minds (1995)

East is East (1999)

Made in Dagenham (2010)

Freedom Writers (2007)

The Kids are All Right (2010)

The History Boys (2006)