WORKBOOK FOR AQA A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY BOOK ONE

Student Workbook for Chapter 1

WHAT IS SOCIOLOGY?

What is sociology? 1

What does AS and A level sociology involve? 12

NAPIER PRESS Sociology

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What is sociology?

Learning Objectives

After studying this Topic, you should:

- Know the meaning of key terms: culture, norms, values, socialisation, status and role.
- Understand the importance of culture and socialisation for explaining human behaviour.
- Understand the difference between structural and social action views of society, and between consensus and conflict views of society.
- Understand the differences between traditional, modern and postmodern society.
- Know the main patterns of inequality in today's society.
- Understand that sociologists use a variety of research methods and that these have both strengths and limitations.
- Know what studying sociology involves, including the exam papers, assessment objectives and ways of developing your knowledge and skills.

What is sociology? (page 5)

Getting Started (page 4)

Write your answers to question 2 of the Getting Started activity here.

2a.

2b.

2c.

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Nature or nurture? (page 6)

1. Define instinct and give an example of instinctive behaviour.

2. Give three examples of behaviour that varies between individuals and societies.

a.

b.

c.

3. How do the behaviours that you identified in question 2 above show that we do not act purely on instinct?

4. Give three examples of learned behaviour.

a.

b.

c.

Box 1 The effects of extreme isolation (page 7)

Write your answers to the questions in Box 1 here.

1.

2.

3.

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Culture, norms and values (pages 6-8)

1. Define the following concepts:

a. Culture

b. Values

c. Norms

2. Give an example of:

a. A formal norm

b. An informal norm

3. Give an example of:

a. A positive sanction

b. A negative sanction

4. Give an example of a subculture.

Activity: What counts as food? (page 7)

Write your answers to the questions here.

1.

2a.

2b.

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3.

4.

5.

Activity: Research *Cannibalism as a norm* (page 7)

Write your answers here.

A.
Exocannibalism

Endocannibalism

Necro-cannibalism

B.

C.

D.

Activity: Research *Changing norms about homosexuality* (page 8)

Write your answers to the questions here.

A1.

A2.

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A3.

A4a.

A4b.

A4c.

A5.

A6.

A7.

A8.

A9.

A10.

B.

Socialisation (page 8)

1. Define socialisation.

2. What is the difference between primary and secondary socialisation?

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Activity: Gender role socialisation (page 8)

Write your answers to the questions here.

1.

2.

3.

Status and role (pages 8-9)

Define the following:

a. Ascribed status

b. Achieved status

Activity: Status and role (page 9)

Write your answers to the questions here.

1a.

1b.

1c.

1d.

2.

3.

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Individual and society (page 9)

1. Outline the key features of the structural view of society.

2. Outline the key features of the social action view of society.

Activity: Research (page 9)

Write your answers here.

1.

2.

Consensus or conflict? (pages 9-10)

1. Define value consensus.

2. Outline how functionalists see society.

3. Define the following Marxist concepts:

a. Bourgeoisie

b. Proletariat

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4. According to Marxists, what is the relationship between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat?

5. According to Marx, why would the working class overthrow capitalism?

6. According to feminists, what is the most important division in society?

Box 2 Shoplifting in Chicago (page 10)

Write your answers to the questions here.

1.

2.

3.

Diversity and identity (page 10)

1. What is the key characteristic of postmodern society?

2. Why might having a wider variety of groups in society lead to greater freedom for individuals?

Question (page 10)

Write your answer here.

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Box 3 Social change and types of society (page 11)

1. Define the following:

a. Urbanisation

b. Industrialisation

2. Outline the key features of the following types of society:

a. Traditional society

b. Modern society

c. Postmodern society

Inequality (pages 11-12)

1. Define life chances.

2. Give a brief summary of differences in individuals' life chances in relation to the following:

a. Gender

b. Social class

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c. Ethnicity

d. Age

How do sociologists study society? (page 12)

1. Why is evidence important to sociologists?.

2. Describe three research methods that sociologists use.

3. Give one strength of using a social survey as a research method.

4. Give one limitation of using social survey as a research method.

Questions (page 12)

Write your answers here.

1.

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2.

3.

QuickCheck Questions (page 12)

Write your answers here.

1.

2a.

2b.

2c.

3.

4.

5.

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6.

7.

8.

9a.

9b.

9c.

10.

What does AS and A level sociology involve? (page 13)

Topics and exams (page 13)

What topics are covered in each of the following exam papers?

AS paper 1

AS paper 2

A level paper 1

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A level paper 2

A level paper 3

What the examiners are looking for (page 13)

Explain what the following Assessment Objectives involve:

1. AO1: Knowledge and Understanding

2. AO2: Application

3. AO3: Analysis

4. AO3: Evaluation

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Developing your knowledge and skills (page 13)

Rank the list of pointers from 1 to 8, where 1 is the most important to you, and 8 is the least important.

Pointer	Rank
Keep up with your course	
Work with others	
When you don't understand, ask	
Use your textbook	
Apply what you learn	
Be critical	
Take ideas apart	
Answer the question	

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