

WORKBOOK FOR AQA A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY BOOK TWO

Student Workbook for Chapter 3

THEORY AND METHODS

Topic 1	Quantitative research methods	1
Topic 2	Qualitative research methods	23
Topic 3	Sociology and science	39
Topic 4	Objectivity and values in sociology	54
Topic 5	Functionalism	63
Topic 6	Marxism	73
Topic 7	Feminist theories	87
Topic 8	Action theories	99
Topic 9	Globalisation, modernity and postmodernity	115
Topic 10	Sociology and social policy	128

TOPIC 1 Quantitative research methods

Learning Objectives

After studying this Topic, you should:

- Know the main features and types of the following quantitative research methods and sources of data: experiments, questionnaires, structured interviews and official statistics.
- Be able to evaluate the practical, ethical and theoretical strengths and limitations of each of these methods and sources.
- Understand the usefulness of each of these methods and sources in relation to wider issues of methodological and theoretical perspective, science, values and objectivity.



Topic 1

Quantitative research methods

Getting Started (page 158)

Write your answers to the Getting Started activity here.

1.

2.

3.

4.

Quantitative research methods (page 159)

1. According to positivists, why should sociology model its research methods on those of the natural sciences?
2. Give an example of a pattern of social reality.

NAPIER PRESS Sociology

1

3. According to positivists, why do social patterns exist?
4. How can cause and effect be discovered?
5. Give an example to show how quantitative data can be used to show patterns of behaviour in society.

Laboratory experiments (pages 159-161)

1. In what sense is a laboratory experiment a *controlled* experiment?
2. Briefly describe what happens to the following groups in an experiment:
 - a. The experimental group
 - b. The control group
3. Briefly explain how a laboratory experiment can show cause-and-effect relationships.

Practical issues (page 160)

1. Briefly explain the following practical issues associated with laboratory experiments:
 - a. Open systems
 - b. Individuals are complex

- c. Studying the past
- d. Small samples
- e. The Hawthorne effect
- f. The expectancy effect

Analysis and Evaluation (page 160)

Write your answer here.

Ethical issues (pages 160-161)

1. Briefly explain the following ethical issues associated with laboratory experiments:
 - a. Informed consent
 - b. Harm to subjects

Theoretical issues (page 161)

1. According to positivists, what is the theoretical strength of laboratory experiments?
2. Briefly outline three reasons why positivists regard laboratory experiments as highly reliable.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

Representativeness (page 161)

1. According to positivists, why is representativeness important?
2. What is meant by external validity?
3. Briefly outline two reasons why laboratory experiments may lack external validity.
 - a.
 - b.

Internal validity (page 161)

1. What is meant by internal validity and why might laboratory experiments lack it?

Interpretivism and free will (page 161)

1. According to interpretivists, why are laboratory experiments inappropriate for studying human beings?

Field experiments (pages 161-162)

1. Briefly outline two ways in which a field experiment differs from a laboratory experiment.
 - a.
 - b.
2. What variable did Rosenthal and Jacobson manipulate in their field experiment and how did they do it?
3. Briefly explain the following types of field experiment:
 - a. Actor tests
 - b. Correspondence tests
4. What is the value of field experiments?
5. What is meant by the trade-off between naturalism and control in field experiments? Why is loss of control a problem?
6. Why might field experiments be seen as unethical? How might you counter this view?

Activity: Media *Racial discrimination in everyday life* (page 162)

A. Write your answers here.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5a.

5b.

5c.

B. Write your summary paragraph here.

The comparative method (page 162)

1. Why is the comparative method called a 'thought experiment'? How does this differ from both field and laboratory experiments?

2. What is the similarity between the comparative method and laboratory experiments?

3. Briefly outline how the comparative method works.
 - a.
 - b.
4. Briefly outline the three advantages of the comparative method over laboratory experiments.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
5. How does the lack of control in a thought experiment affect the findings?

Questionnaires (pages 162-163)

1. Briefly define the following types of questions used in questionnaires:
 - a. Closed-ended
 - b. Open-ended

Practical issues in using questionnaires (page 163)

1. Briefly outline three practical strengths of questionnaires.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

2. Briefly outline seven practical limitations of questionnaires.

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.

g.

Analysis and Evaluation (page 163)

Write your answers here.

Advantages

a.

b.

Disadvantages

a.

b.

Positivism (pages 163-165)

1. Briefly outline the reasons why positivists favour the use of questionnaires.

Hypothesis testing (pages 163-165)

1. Briefly explain how questionnaires can be used to establish correlations.

Reliability (page 164)

1. Define reliability.
2. According to positivists, why is reliability important?
2. Briefly explain why questionnaires are seen as a reliable method of collecting data.
3. How do questionnaires enable comparisons to be made?

Representatives (pages 164-165)

1. According to positivists, why is representativeness important?
2. Briefly outline the two main reasons why questionnaires may yield representative data.
 - a.

b.

3. Briefly explain why questionnaires might not be representative.

Box 3.1 *Sampling* (page 164)

1. What is a sample?
2. What is the aim of sampling?
3. Why is sampling important for positivists?
4. What is a sampling frame?
5. Briefly explain the following representative sampling techniques:
 - a. Random sampling
 - b. Quasi-random sampling
 - c. Stratified random sampling
 - d. Quota sampling
6. Briefly explain the following non-representative sampling techniques:
 - a. Snowball sampling
 - b. Opportunity sampling

7. Why do interpretivists have less need for representative samples?

Detachment and objectivity (page 165)

1. According to positivists, why is it important for research to be objective and detached?
2. Briefly explain why questionnaires are seen as detached and scientific.

Interpretivism (page 165-166)

1. What do interpretivists seek to discover?
2. Define validity.
3. Why do interpretivists tend to reject the use of questionnaires?

Detachment (page 165)

1. Why do interpretivists reject the positivists' preference for detachment and objectivity?
2. According to interpretivists, why do questionnaires give invalid data?

Lying, forgetting and trying to impress (page 165)

1. Briefly explain why respondents might not give full and accurate answers in questionnaires.
2. Use an example to explain why respondents might give answers they feel they ought to give.
3. Why do interpretivists prefer observation to questionnaires?

Box 3.2 Ethics and questionnaires (page 165)

1. Why do questionnaires pose relatively few ethical problems?
2. What ethical guidelines should be observed when using questionnaires?

Imposing the researcher's meanings (pages 165-166)

1. According to interpretivists, why do questionnaires impose the researcher's meanings on the research?
2. Briefly explain how the following types of question may distort reality and undermine validity:
 - a. Closed-ended questions
 - b. Open-ended questions

Structured interviews (pages 166-167)

1. Briefly outline the following types of interview:
 - a. Structured
 - b. Unstructured
 - c. Semi-structured
2. In what ways are structured interviews like questionnaires?
3. What is the main difference between structured interviews and questionnaires?

Practical issues (pages 166-167)

1. Briefly outline five practical advantages of structured interviews.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
2. Briefly outline three practical limitations of structured interviews.
 - a.

b.

c.

Box 3.3 *Ethics and interviewing* (page 166)

1. Why do structured interviews pose relatively few ethical problems?
2. Why might feminists view interviews as oppressive?
3. Why might it sometimes be difficult to keep interviewees' identity confidential? Give an example.
4. Suggest two special considerations that should be taken into account when interviewing vulnerable people.

Theoretical issues and structured interviews (pages 167-169)

Positivism (pages 167-168)

1. According to positivists, why are structured interviews appropriate for testing hypotheses?
2. Briefly explain why structured interviews are seen as a reliable method.

Analysis and Evaluation (page 167)

Write your answer here.

Representativeness (pages 167-168)

1. According to positivists, why might structured interviews be likely to give representative findings?

Interpretivism (page 168)

1. Briefly outline four reasons why structured interviews may not give valid data.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

Box 3.4 Interviews as social interactions (page 168)

1. Briefly outline the following four ways in which the social interaction of an interview may undermine the validity of the data collected:
 - a. Status differences
 - b. Cultural differences
 - c. Social desirability

d. Interviewer bias

5. Why might structured interviews be less susceptible to the above issues?

Feminism (pages 168-169)

1. Why does Reinharz call the use of survey methods for data collection 'research as rape'?
2. Briefly outline Oakley's criticism of positivistic methods such as structured interviews.
3. Briefly explain how the roles taken in an interview may mirror the gender divisions and hierarchies of patriarchal society.
4. According to Graham, how do questionnaires and structured interviews give an invalid picture of women's experience?

Activity: Discussion *Which quantitative method?* (page 169)

Write a summary of your class discussion here.

1. Define secondary data.
2. Briefly describe the following sources of information used to create official statistics, giving an example of each:
 - a. Registration
 - b. Official surveys
 - c. Administrative records
3. Give an example of 'non-official' statistics.

Practical advantages (page 169)

1. Briefly outline four practical advantages of official statistics.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

Practical disadvantages (page 169-170)

1. Briefly outline four practical disadvantages of official statistics.
 - a.

b.

c.

d.

Positivism and statistics (page 170)

1. Using the example of mental illness, briefly explain how official statistics may be used to identify and measure behaviour, test hypotheses and develop causal laws.
2. Why is representativeness important for positivists?
3. Why do official statistics often provide a more representative sample than research that sociologists are able to carry out themselves?
4. Apart from the use of large samples, why might official statistics provide a sound basis for making generalisations?
5. According to positivists, why are official statistics reliable?
6. Why might official statistics be unreliable?

Interpretivism and statistics (pages 170-171)

1. According to interpretivists, why should we treat official statistics as a topic for investigation rather than as a useful resource? Give an example to illustrate this.

2. Briefly explain what is meant by soft statistics. Give an example.

3. Briefly explain what is meant by hard statistics. Give an example.

Application (page 171)

Write your answers here.

(a)

(b)

Marxism and statistics (page 171)

1. Briefly explain how the Marxist view of official statistics differs from:
 - (a) The positivist view

 - (b) The interpretivist view

2. Identify three ways in which Marxists see official statistics as performing an ideological function.

a.

b.

c.

Activity: Discussion *Official statistics - a useful resource?* (page 171)

D. Write a summary of your class discussion here.

Feminism and statistics (pages 171-172)

1. Briefly explain two reasons why feminists criticise the use of official statistics.

a.

b.

2. Using examples, briefly explain why not all official statistics may reflect patriarchy.

Box 3.5 Ethics and official statistics (page 172)

1. Briefly outline why official statistics tend to present fewer ethical problems than other research methods.
2. Give an example of an ethical issue that may be raised when using official statistics.

QuickCheck Questions (page 173)

Write your answers below.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

Now answer the Questions to try on page 173 of your textbook.

TOPIC 2 Qualitative research methods

Learning Objectives

After studying this Topic, you should:

- Know the main features and types of the following qualitative research methods and sources of data: unstructured interviews, participant observation and documents.
- Be able to evaluate the practical, ethical and theoretical strengths and limitations of each of these methods and sources.
- Understand the usefulness of each of these methods and sources in relation to wider issues of methodological and theoretical perspective, science, values and objectivity.



Topic 2

Qualitative research methods

Getting Started (page 158)

Write your answers to the Getting Started activity here.

1.

a.

b.

c.

2.

3.

Quantitative research methods (page 175)

1. According to interpretivists, why should sociologists use qualitative research methods?

NAPIER PRESS Sociology

23

1. In what way do unstructured interviews differ from structured interviews?
2. What is the main attraction of unstructured interviews?

Practical issues (page 175)

1. Briefly explain the following practical issues associated with unstructured interviews:
 - a. Rapport
 - b. Training
 - c. Time
 - d. Large amounts of data
 - e. Checking meanings
 - f. Flexibility

g. Limited knowledge of the subject

h. No pre-set questions

Theoretical issues: interpretivism (pages 175-176)

1. What is the key criterion used by interpretivists to judge the usefulness of a method?
2. Briefly explain how valid data can be achieved through involvement.
3. According to Glaser and Strauss, why is it important to develop grounded theory?
4. Briefly explain why unstructured interviews are more likely to reveal the interviewee's true meanings.

Theoretical issues: positivism (pages 176-177)

1. Why do positivists reject the use of unstructured interviews?
2. Briefly outline why positivists argue that unstructured interviews are not reliable.

3. Why are the answers from unstructured interviews hard to categorise and quantify?
4. According to positivists, why are unstructured interviews unlikely to be representative?
5. Why is representativeness less important for interpretivists?
6. According to positivists, why do unstructured interviews lack validity?

Application (page 177)

Write your answers here.

Reason 1

Reason 2

Feminism (page 177)

1. Briefly outline the following features of a feminist approach to research:
 - a. Value-committed
 - b. Involvement

- c. Equality and collaboration
2. According to Oakley, why was it advantageous to use unstructured interviews to research women becoming mothers?
3. According to Pawson, why is Oakley's approach not distinctively feminist or original?

Participant observation (pages 177-178)

1. Briefly describe the following types of observation:
 - a. Non-participant observation
 - b. Participant observation
2. What type of observation might positivists use?
3. Briefly describe the following types of observation:
 - a. Overt
 - b. Covert
4. Which is the most common form of observation used in sociology?

5. Using examples, explain the following problems associated with observation:

a. Getting in

b. Staying in

c. Getting out

Practical issues in participant observation (pages 178-179)

Insight (page 178)

1. Define verstehen.

2. Briefly outline how participant observation allows a sociologist to gain verstehen.

Access (page 178)

1. Briefly describe two kinds of group for whom participant observation might be the only suitable method for studying them.

a.

b.

Box 3.6 Overt versus covert observation - practical issues (page 179)

Complete the table of practical issues involved in overt and covert observation.

Overt	Covert

Flexibility (page 179)

1. Briefly explain why participant observation enables sociologists to discover things that other methods miss.

Limitations (page 179)

1. Briefly outline five practical limitations of using participant observation.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.

Interpretivism (page 180)

1. What is the key criterion used by interpretivists to judge the usefulness of a method?
2. Briefly explain how valid data can be achieved through involvement.
3. According to Glaser and Strauss, why is it important to develop grounded theory?
4. Briefly explain why participant observation is more likely to give a valid picture than interviews or questionnaires are.

Positivism (pages 180-182)

1. Why do positivists reject the use of participant observation?
2. According to positivists, why is participant observation unlikely to be representative?
3. Briefly outline why positivists argue that participant observation is not reliable.
4. Briefly outline three ways in which participant observation lacks objectivity.
 - a.

- b.
 - c.
5. According to positivists, why does participant observation lack validity?
6. What is the Hawthorne effect (see page 160) and how does this affect participant observation?

Analysis and Evaluation: (page 181)

Write your answer here.

Box 3.7 *Positivism and structured observation* (page 181)

1. Briefly outline four characteristics of structured non-participant observation.
- a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
2. Why do interpretivists reject structured observation?

Box 3.8 Ethics and observation (page 181)

1. Briefly outline three ethical issues associated with covert participant observation.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. Briefly outline one ethical issue associated with both overt and covert participant observation.
3. Why might it be difficult to obtain informed consent for participant observation?
4. Briefly explain why close involvement with the group can result in lack of objectivity.
5. Identify one ethical issue associated with covert non-participant observation.

Structure versus action perspectives (pages 181-182)

1. Why is participant observation favoured by 'action' perspectives?
2. Why is participant observation seen as inadequate by structural sociologists?
3. Why might a functionalist use participant observation?

Activity: Research *Different types of observation?* (page 182)

A. Write your answers here.

1.

2.

3.

4.

B. Complete the table below.

	Covert	Overt
Non-participant observation		
Participant observation		

Documents (pages 182-184)

1. Give five examples of each of the following information sources:

a. Written texts

b. Other texts

2. Give examples of the following types of document:

a. Public documents

b. Personal documents

c. Historical documents

Practical issues and documents (pages 182)

1. Briefly outline three advantages of using documents in sociological research.

a.

b.

c.

2. Briefly outline two practical difficulties in using documents in sociological research.

a.

b.

Theoretical issues and documents (page 182-183)

1. Which methodological perspective favours the use of documents?

2. Use an example to illustrate the ways in which documents reveal individuals' meanings.

3. According to Scott, why might documents lack validity?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
4. Briefly explain why documents may not be reliable.
5. Briefly outline two reasons why documents may not be representative.
 - a.
 - b.

Box 3.9 *Ethics and documents* (page 183)

1. Briefly outline why using unpublished documents may raise ethical issues.
2. Why might there be a justification for not gaining informed consent to use a document?
3. Why might there still be an ethical issue with the use of documents even where the author is dead?

Content analysis (pages 183-184)**Formal content analysis**

1. Briefly outline how formal content analysis works.
2. Why is formal content analysis attractive to positivists?
3. Why might feminists use formal content analysis?
4. Briefly explain an interpretivist criticism of formal content analysis.

Thematic analysis

1. Briefly explain what is meant by thematic analysis.
2. Briefly outline two criticisms of thematic analysis.
 - a.
 - b.

Activity: Research *Comparing research methods* (page 184)

E. Write your summary paragraph here.

QuickCheck Questions (page 185)

Write your answers below.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

Now answer the Questions to try on page 185 of your textbook.

TOPIC 3 Sociology and science

Learning Objectives

After studying this Topic, you should:

- Know the difference between positivist and interpretivist views of whether sociology can be a science and be able to apply this to the issue of suicide.
- Know a range of views on natural science and their implications for sociology as a science.
- Be able to evaluate the arguments for and against the view that sociology can or should be a science.



Topic 3

Sociology and science

Getting Started (page 186)

Write your answers to the Getting Started activity here.

1.

2.

3.

1. Briefly outline the Enlightenment thinkers' view of science.

2. Why did early sociologists want to use the methods of science?

NAPIER PRESS Sociology

39

1. According to positivists, what are the benefits of using the logic and methods of the natural sciences in studying society?
2. What is the key feature of the positivist approach?
3. According to positivists, in what way is society like the physical world?

Patterns, laws and inductive reasoning (page 187)

1. According to positivists, what is the job of science?
2. Briefly explain what is meant by induction.
3. Briefly explain the process of induction, development of a theory and formulation of a scientific law.
4. Briefly explain what is meant by verificationism.
5. Briefly explain how macro theories see society and its structures.

Objective quantitative research (pages 188)

1. Briefly explain why positivists use quantitative data.
2. According to positivists, why should researchers be objective and detached?
3. Give an example of how a sociological researcher might 'contaminate' their research.
4. According to positivists, which methods are most likely to avoid this contamination?

Analysis and Evaluation (page 188)

Write your answers here.

1.

2.

Positivism and suicide (page 188)

1. What was Durkheim's aim in studying suicide?

2. What does Durkheim mean by 'social facts'?
3. According to Durkheim, which social facts are involved in determining the suicide rate? Give an example to illustrate your answer.

Interpretivism (pages 189 -190)

The subject matter of sociology (page 189)

1. According to interpretivists, why is sociology not a science?
2. Briefly outline the difference between the subject matter of sociology and that of the natural sciences.
 - a. Natural sciences
 - b. Sociology
3. According to Mead, how do people respond to stimuli? Use an example to illustrate this.

Verstehen and qualitative research (page 178)

1. Define verstehen.
2. Why do interpretivists favour the use of qualitative methods?

Types of interpretivism (pages 189-190)

1. Briefly outline the following types of interpretivism:
 - a. interactionists
 - b. phenomenologists and ethnomethodologists

Interpretivism and suicide (pages 189-190)

1. According to Douglas, what determines how individuals choose to act?
2. Why does Douglas reject the use of quantitative data in the study of suicide?

3. According to Atkinson, what is the only aspect of suicide that can be studied?

Postmodernism, feminism and scientific sociology (page 190)

1. Briefly explain why postmodernists argue against the idea of scientific sociology.
2. Why do postmodernists suggest the scientific approach may be dangerous?
3. Briefly outline the poststructuralist feminist view of scientific sociology.
4. Briefly explain what is meant by 'risk society' and why this might be a reason to reject a scientific model for sociology.

What is science? (page 190)

1. How do both positivists and interpretivists tend to see the natural sciences?

1. Give three examples of systems of thought that claim to have true knowledge about the world, according to Popper.

The fallacy of induction (page 191)

1. Briefly outline what is meant by induction.
2. Using an example, briefly explain what Popper means by the 'fallacy of induction'.

Falsificationism (page 191)

1. According to Popper, what is it that makes a statement scientific?
2. According to Popper, what are the two features of a good theory?

Analysis and Evaluation (page 191)

Write your answers here.

1.

2.

Truth (page 191)

1. Explain why, in Popper's view, there can never be absolute proof that any knowledge is true.

Criticism and the open society (page 191)

1. According to Popper, why does openness to criticism enable scientific knowledge to grow?
2. What does Popper mean by a closed society? Give an example of a closed society.
3. Why might a 'closed' society stifle the growth of science?

Implications for sociology (pages 191-192)

1. According to Popper, why is much sociology unscientific? Use an example to illustrate this point.
2. According to Popper, how could sociology be scientific? Give an example to illustrate this.

3. Briefly outline the two reasons why untestable ideas may still have value.

Activity: Media Karl Popper and falsificationism (page 192)

A. Write your answers here.

1.

2.

3.

4a.

4b.

B. Write your answer here.

Thomas Kuhn: scientific paradigms (pages 192 -193)

The paradigm (page 192)

1. Briefly outline what Kuhn means by a paradigm.

2. Why do scientists come to accept the paradigm uncritically?
3. How is scientists' conformity to the paradigm rewarded?

Normal science (page 192)

1. What does Kuhn mean by normal science?
2. According to Kuhn, what is the advantage of having a paradigm?
3. Briefly explain how Kuhn's view of science differs from that of Popper.

Scientific revolutions (page 192)

1. Briefly explain what happens when scientists obtain findings that do not agree with the paradigm.
2. Briefly explain how a scientific revolution begins.

3. Briefly explain why it might be difficult for scientists to switch to a new paradigm.
4. In what way can the acceptance of a new paradigm be compared to a religious conversion?
5. How does Kuhn's view of the scientific community differ from that of Popper?

Application (page 193)

Write your answers here.

1.

2.

Implications for sociology (page 193)

1. Briefly explain why sociology is pre-paradigmatic.
2. According to Kuhn, how could sociology become a science?
3. Briefly explain why postmodernists would reject the idea of a paradigm in sociology.

Activity: Media *The case of Dr. Velikovsky* (page 193)

A. Write your answers here.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

C. Write your answer here.

1. Briefly explain what Keat and Urry mean by a closed system.
2. Briefly explain what Keat and Urry mean by an open system. Give an example of an open system.

Underlying structures (page 182)

1. In what way do Keat and Urry disagree with the positivist view of science?
2. In what way do Keat and Urry disagree with the interpretivist view of science?
3. According to realists, what is the similarity between natural and social sciences?

Conclusion (page 194)

1. Briefly outline how the following perspectives view the nature of sociology and its subject matter:
 - a. Positivists
 - b. Interpretivists

2. Briefly explain how the following see science and whether sociology can be scientific:

a. Popper

b. Kuhn

c. Realists

QuickCheck Questions (page 195)

Write your answers below.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

Now answer the Questions to try on page 195 of your textbook.

TOPIC 4 Objectivity and values in sociology

Learning Objectives

After studying this Topic, you should:

- Understand the meaning of objectivity, subjectivity and value freedom.
- Know the main views put forward of the relationship between sociology and values.
- Be able to evaluate the strengths and limitations of different views as to whether sociology can and should be value-free.



Topic 4

Objectivity and values in sociology

Getting Started (page 196)

Write your answers to the Getting Started activity here.

1.

2.

3a.

3b.

3c.

3d.

4.

5.

Outline the three views of whether it is possible or desirable to keep values out of research.
(page 187)

a.

b.

NAPIER PRESS **Sociology**

54

c.

The classical sociologists and values (pages 197-198)

The early positivists (page 187)

1. According to the early positivists' modernist view, what was the job of sociology? What benefit would this bring?
2. In what way was the role of sociologists crucial?
3. Briefly explain in what way Marx's views are similar to those of Comte and Durkheim.

Max Weber (page 197-198)

1. Using an example, explain the distinction made by Weber between value judgements and facts.
2. Briefly explain Weber's views on the role of values in the following stages of the research process:
 - a. Values as a guide to research

b. Data collection and hypothesis testing

c. Values in the interpretation of data

d. Values and the sociologist as a citizen

Value freedom and commitment (pages 198-200)

1. What is meant by 'committed sociology'?

Modern positivists (page 198-199)

1. Briefly explain why modern positivists say research should be morally neutral.
2. Why is the view in Question 1 criticised?
3. Using the distinction between 'problem makers' and 'problem takers', explain what Gouldner means when he says that sociologists had become mere 'spiritless technicians' by the 1950s?
4. According to Gouldner, what is the effect of sociologists leaving their own values behind?

Activity: Media Social scientists and the military (page 199)

Write your answers here.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

7.

8.

B. Write your answers here.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

C. Write your summary paragraph here.

Committed sociology (page 199)

1. Briefly outline Myrdal's views on values in research.
2. According to Gouldner, why is value-free sociology:
 - a. Impossible
 - b. Undesirable

Whose side are we on? (page 199)

1. According to Becker, whose side do positivists and functionalists take?
2. According to Becker, why should sociologists take the side of the underdog?
3. Briefly outline Goffman's example of how we should study mental patients. How does this illustrate Becker's views?
4. Briefly explain why interactionists favour qualitative methods of research.

5. Briefly explain Gouldner's criticism of Becker.
6. According to Gouldner, what should sociology be committed to doing?

Funding and careers (pages 199-200)

1. Briefly explain why sociologists' work is likely to embody the values and interests of those who fund it.
2. In what ways might sociologists' concern with their careers influence their research?

Perspectives and methods (page 200)

1. Briefly outline the values and assumptions of the following perspectives:
 - a. Feminism
 - b. Functionalism
 - c. Marxism
2. Use an example to illustrate the link between a sociologist's choice of method and their value-stance.

Objectivity and relativism (page 200)

1. Briefly outline the two arguments of relativism.
 - a.
 - b.
2. Briefly explain how relativism views truth.

Relativism and postmodernism (page 200)

1. According to postmodernists, why does no perspective have any special claim to be true?
2. Briefly explain why relativism is self-defeating.

QuickCheck Questions (page 201)

Write your answers below.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Now answer the Questions to try on page 201 of your textbook.

TOPIC 5 Functionalism

Learning Objectives

After studying this Topic, you should:

- Know the main features of the functionalist view of the social system.
- Understand Merton's contribution to the development of functionalism.
- Be able to evaluate the strengths and limitations of the functionalist perspective on society.



Topic 5

Functionalism

Getting Started (page 202)

Write your answers to the Getting Started activity here.

A1.

A2.

B1.

B2.

1. Briefly outline the key features of the functionalist view of society.

NAPIER PRESS **Sociology**

63

1. Briefly explain the organic analogy.
2. Briefly outline Parsons' three similarities between society and a biological organism.
 - a. System
 - b. System needs
 - c. Functions

Analysis and Evaluation (page 181)

Write your answers here.

Value consensus and social order (page 203)

1. According to Parsons, how is social order achieved?
2. Define the following key terms:
 - a. Culture

b. Value consensus

Integration of individuals (pages 203-204)

1. Briefly explain how value consensus makes social order possible.

2. Briefly outline the following two mechanisms for ensuring that individuals conform to shared norms and meet the system's needs:
 - a. Socialisation

 - b. Social control

3. How does integration into a shared value system makes orderly social life possible?

Box 3.10 *Durkheim and functionalism* (page 204)

1. According to Durkheim, what were the features of traditional society?

2. According to Durkheim, in what ways is modern society different from traditional society?
3. Briefly explain what Durkheim means by anomie. What is its impact on society?
4. Briefly outline Durkheim's view of society and social facts.

The parts of the social system (page 204)

1. Briefly explain the following 'building blocks' in Parsons' model of the social system:
 - a. Actions
 - b. Norms
 - c. Status-roles
 - d. Institutions
 - e. Sub-systems
2. Draw a diagram to show how the above 'building blocks' fit together to form the social system.

The system's needs (page 204)

1. Briefly outline the four basic system needs (AGIL schema) that Parsons identifies:
 - a. Adaptation
 - b. Goal attainment
 - c. Integration
 - d. Latency

2. Which of these needs are instrumental and which expressive? Explain your answers.
 - a. Instrumental
 - b. Expressive

Activity: Research *The social system* (page 204)

The social system

	Instrumental needs of the social system		Expressive needs of the social system	
System needs (AGIL)	Adaption	Goal attainment	Integration	Latency
Subsystems		The political system		
Institutions (examples)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political parties • Parliament • Government departments • Elections 		
Status roles (examples)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministers • MPs • Civil servants • Local councillors 		
Norms governing status-roles (examples)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPs should represent constituents • MPs should attend Parliament and take part in debates • Civil servants • Local councillors 		

Social change (page 204)

1. Briefly outline the norms of the following types of society:

a. Modern society

b. Traditional society

2. According to Parsons, how do societies change from one type to the other?

3. Briefly explain structural differentiation. Give an example to illustrate this.

Merton's internal critique of functionalism (page 205)

1. Briefly outline Merton's criticism of Parsons' three key assumptions.
 - a. Indispensability

 - b. Functional unity

 - c. Universal functionalism

Analysis and Evaluation (page 205)

Write your answers here.

a.

b.

c.

Manifest and latent functions (page 205)

1. Using examples, briefly explain Merton's two types of function:

a. Manifest functions

b. Latent functions

External critiques of functionalism (pages 205-206)**Logical criticisms (page 206)**

1. Define teleology.

2. Using the example of the family, explain the criticism that functionalism is teleological.

3. Briefly explain why functionalism is unscientific. Give an example to illustrate this.

Conflict perspective criticisms (page 206)

1. Briefly outline the Marxist criticism of functionalism.
2. According to conflict theorists, how does functionalism legitimate the status quo?

Action perspective criticisms (page 206)

1. Briefly outline Wrong's action perspective criticism of functionalism.
2. Briefly explain how functionalism reifies. Why do action approaches see this as a problem?

Postmodernist criticisms (page 206)

1. Briefly outline the postmodernist criticism of functionalism.

QuickCheck Questions (page 207)

Write your answers below.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Now answer the Questions to try on page 207 of your textbook.

TOPIC 6
 Marxism

Learning Objectives

After studying this Topic, you should:

- Know and understand Marx’s main ideas and concepts.
- Understand the differences between humanistic and structural Marxism.
- Be able to evaluate the strengths and limitations of Marxist approaches to the study of society.



Getting Started (page 208)

Write your answers to the Getting Started activity here.

A1.

A2.

B1.

B2.

C.

1. What does Marxism have in common with functionalism?

2. Briefly outline two ways in which Marxism differs from functionalism.
 - a.
 - b.

Marx's ideas (pages 209-211)

1. Briefly explain the similarities between Marx and Durkheim.
2. Briefly outline how Marx saw historical change.
3. According to Marx, how would a classless society be brought into being?

Historical materialism (page 209)

1. Define materialism.
2. According to Marx, why do humans enter into social relations of production?
3. Which two classes emerge along with the division of labour?

4. Briefly explain the following Marxist concepts:

a. Mode of production

b. Economic base

c. Superstructure

Class society and exploitation (pages 209-210)

1. What were the three key features of primitive communism?

2. Briefly explain what is meant by surplus product.

3. What form of exploitation is each of the following class societies based on:

a. Ancient society

b. Feudal society

c. Capitalist society

Capitalism (page 210)

1. Define the following:
 - a. Bourgeoisie
 - b. Proletariat
2. Briefly explain the three distinctive features of capitalism.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

Class consciousness (page 210)

1. According to Marx, how does capitalism sow the seeds of its own destruction?
2. What is the difference between a class in itself and a class for itself?

Ideology (page 210)

1. According to Marx, whose ideas are dominant in any given society?

2. Define ideologies.

3. Briefly explain what is meant by false consciousness.

Alienation (page 210)

1. According to Marx, what is the cause of alienation?

2. Briefly explain the two reasons why alienation reaches a peak in capitalist societies.
 - a.

 - b.

The state, revolution and communism (pages 210-211)

1. According to Marx, what is the function of the state?

2. According to Marx, why would a proletarian revolution be different from other revolutions?

3. Briefly outline three consequences of a proletarian revolution.

a.

b.

c.

3. According to Marx, where would revolution occur first?

Criticisms of Marx (page 211)

1. Briefly outline three criticisms of Marx's view of class.

a.

b.

c.

2. Briefly explain what is meant by economic determinism.

3. According to Weber, what does Marx neglect in his base-superstructure model?

4. Why has Marx's prediction of revolution been criticised?

Activity: Media *Karl Marx* (page 211)

A. Write your answers here.

1.

2.

3.

4a.

4b.

4c.

4d.

4e.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

B. Write your paragraph here.

The 'two Marxisms' (page 211)

1. Briefly outline the following Marxist approaches:

a. Humanistic or critical Marxism

b. Scientific or structuralist Marxism

Hegemony and revolution (page 212)

1. According to Gramsci, how are the ruling class able to prevent a revolution?
2. Briefly explain the following reasons why the hegemony of the ruling class is never complete:
 - a. The ruling class are a minority.
 - b. The proletariat have a dual consciousness.
3. What is meant by a counter-hegemonic bloc?
4. What does Gramsci mean by organic intellectuals?

Evaluation of Gramsci (page 212)

1. What is Gramsci accused of under-emphasising?
2. Why might workers tolerate capitalism?
3. Briefly explain how Willis' study supports Gramsci's ideas.

1. Briefly explain how structuralist Marxists differ from humanistic Marxists.

Criticisms of the base-superstructure model (page 212)

1. Briefly outline the three levels of society in Althusser's model:
 - a. The economic level
 - b. The political level
 - c. The ideological level
2. What does Althusser mean by relative autonomy?
3. How does Althusser's model differ from the base-superstructure model?

Ideological and repressive state apparatuses (page 213)

1. Briefly outline the two state apparatuses identified by Althusser:
 - a. The repressive state apparatus
 - b. The ideological state apparatus

4. How do these apparatuses link to Gramsci's ideas of coercion and consent?

Box 3.11 Althusser's structure: an analogy (page 213)

1. Which parts of the analogy illustrate:
 - a. Relative autonomy
 - b. Two-way causality between structures

Althusser's criticisms of humanism (pages 213-214)

1. According to structuralist Marxists, why are we merely puppets of society?
2. According to Althusser, why are humanists wrong to believe that we are free agents?
3. According to Althusser, how will socialism come about? How does this differ from the humanistic Marxist view?

Evaluation of Althusser (page 214)

1. According to Gouldner, why does Althusser's approach discourage political activism?
2. Explain Thompson's criticism that Althusser's view is elitist.

Activity: Discussion *Can ideas bring about revolution?* (page 214)

D. Write your summary here.

QuickCheck Questions (page 215)

Write your answers below.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Now answer the Questions to try on page 215 of your textbook.

TOPIC 7 Feminist theories

Learning Objectives

After studying this Topic, you should:

- Know the main types of feminist theories.
- Understand the similarities and differences between feminist theories.
- Be able to evaluate the strengths and limitations of feminist theories.



Topic 7

Feminist theories

Getting Started (page 208)

Write your answer to Question 1 of the Getting Started activity here.

1.

1. How do feminists view society?
2. When was the first wave of feminism and what did it involve?
3. What do feminists mean by 'malestream' sociology?
4. From what viewpoint do feminists examine society?

Liberal or reformist feminism (pages 217-218)

1. What are liberals concerned with?

2. What is reformism?

3. Briefly outline the following types of changes proposed by liberal feminists:

a. Laws and policies

b. Cultural change

Sex and gender (pages 217-218)

1. Define sex.

2. Define gender.

3. Briefly explain the ways in which gender can vary between cultures and over time. Use an example to illustrate your answer.

4. According to liberal feminists, how are sexist attitudes and stereotypical beliefs transmitted?

5. What are the two ways through which liberal feminists believe society will progress towards gender equality?
6. Briefly outline the following roles described by Parsons:
 - a. Instrumental roles
 - b. Expressive roles
7. According to Parsons, which of the above roles are the domain of men and which of women?
8. In what way do liberal feminists disagree with Parsons' view of gender roles?
9. Why might liberal feminism be seen as a consensus approach?

Activity: Webquest 'SlutWalks' and feminism (page 281)

E. Write your answer here.

Evaluation of liberal feminism (page 218)

1. What aspects of society have liberal feminists highlighted in their research?

2. Why are liberal feminists accused of being over-optimistic?

Radical feminism (pages 218-219)

1. Define patriarchy.

2. Briefly explain the three claims made by radical feminists.
 - a.

 - b.

 - c.

The personal is political (pages 218-219)

1. What do radical feminists mean by sexual politics?
2. How does the example of women not going out alone at night illustrate patriarchal power?
3. According to radical feminists, in what way does patriarchy construct sexuality? Give an example to illustrate your answer.

Application (page 219)

Write your answer here.

Change (page 219)

1. Briefly outline the following solutions to women's oppression proposed by radical feminists:
 - a. Separatism

b. Consciousness-raising

c. Political lesbianism

Evaluation of radical feminism (page 210)

1. Why do Marxists criticise radical feminists?
2. What other social factors does radical feminism ignore?
3. Why does Pollert believe that the concept of patriarchy is of little value?
4. Why does Somerville think separatism is unlikely?
5. According to liberal feminists, what evidence is there for patriarchy being in decline?
6. What types of violence does radical feminism ignore?

1. According to Marxist feminism, what is the cause of women's subordination?
2. Briefly outline the following functions that women's subordination performs:
 - a. Women are a source of cheap, exploitable labour
 - b. Women are a reserve army of labour
 - c. Women reproduce the labour force
 - d. Women absorb anger

Application (page 220)

Write your answers here.

1a.

1b.

2.

Barrett: the ideology of familism (page 220)

1. According to Barrett, why must we take non-economic factors into account to understand women's position in the family?
2. Briefly explain what Barrett means by the ideology of familism.
3. In addition to the overthrow of capitalism, what else is required to secure women's liberation?
4. According to Mitchell, why would it be hard to overcome patriarchy even after the overthrow of capitalism?

Evaluation of Marxist feminism (page 220)

1. Briefly outline four criticisms of Marxist feminism.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

Dual systems feminism (pages 220-221)

1. Briefly explain what is meant by patriarchal capitalism.
2. According to dual systems feminism, how can women's subordination be understood? Give an example to illustrate this.
3. According to Walby, how might the interests of patriarchy and capitalism differ? Use an example to illustrate this point.
4. According to Pollert, how does patriarchy differ from capitalism?

Difference feminism and poststructuralism (pages 221-222)

1. Briefly outline how difference feminism has a different view of women from other feminist perspectives.
2. Using the example of Black women's experience, explain why difference feminists reject the idea that the family is always a source of oppression.

3. Briefly explain what is meant by essentialism.
4. What is the problem of taking an essentialist view of women? Use an example to illustrate your answer.

Poststructuralist feminism (page 221)

1. What are 'discourses'?
2. Using an example, explain how the power to define others gives power over those who are defined.

The Enlightenment project (page 222)

1. Why does Butler see the Enlightenment ideals as a form of power/knowledge?
2. According to Butler, why are Western feminists wrong to claim that the feminist movement represents 'universal womanhood'?

3. Why does poststructuralism suggest there is no fixed essence of what it is to be a woman? Give an example to illustrate this point.
4. According to Butler, what advantage does poststructuralism offer for feminism?
5. According to Butler, what are the advantages of stressing a diversity of discourses?

Activity: Discussion *Which feminism?* (page 222)

Write your summary here.

Evaluation of poststructuralist feminism (page 222)

1. In what way does Walby criticise poststructuralist views?
2. Why is the division of women into subgroups a problem for feminism?

3. What is Segal's criticism of poststructuralist feminism?

QuickCheck Questions (page 223)

Write your answers below.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Now answer the Questions to try on page 223 of your textbook.

TOPIC 8 Action theories

Learning Objectives

After studying this Topic, you should:

- Understand the difference between structural and action theories.
- Know the main types of action theory and understand the differences between them.
- Be able to evaluate the strengths and limitations of action theories.



Topic 8

Action theories

Getting Started (page 224)

Write your answers to the Getting Started activity here.

A.

B.

C.

1. Briefly outline the position of action theories.

Max Weber: social action theory (pages 225-226)

1. Briefly outline the two levels that an adequate sociological explanation involves, using the example of '*The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*'.
 - a. The level of cause

b. The level of meaning

Analysis and Evaluation (page 225)

Write your answers here.

1a.

1b.

2.

Types of action (page 225)

1. Briefly outline Weber's four types of action. Give an example of each type.

a. Instrumentally rational action

b. Value-rational action

c. Traditional action

d. Affectual action

Evaluation of Weber (pages 225-226)

1. In what way does Weber's view correct the over-emphasis on structural factors of other perspectives?
2. Briefly outline three criticisms of Weber.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

Symbolic interactionism (pages 226-228)

1. What is the focus of symbolic interactionism?

G.H. Mead (page 226)**Symbols versus instincts**

1. According to Mead, how do we create meanings?

2. Briefly explain what is meant by the interpretive phase. Use an example to illustrate your explanation.

Taking the role of the other

3. Briefly explain what is meant by 'taking the role of the other'.

4. Briefly explain the following terms:
 - a. Significant other

 - b. Generalised other

5. According to Mead, what do we need in order for us to function as a member of society?

Herbert Blumer (pages 226-227)

1. Briefly outline Blumer's three key principles.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. According to Blumer, why is our action partly predictable?

Activity: Media *Symbolic interactionism* (page 227)

A. Write your answer here.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

6.

B. Write your scenario here.

Labelling theory (page 227)

1. Briefly outline the following interactionist concepts that underpin labelling theory. Give examples to illustrate these concepts.

a. The definition of the situation

b. The looking glass self

c. Career

2. Briefly explain why labelling theory is regarded as a voluntaristic theory.

3. Why might labelling theory be seen as deterministic?

Goffman's dramaturgical model (page 227-228)

1. What is meant by the dramaturgical model?

Impression management

2. According to Goffman, how are we able to present a particular image of ourselves to our audience?

3. Give five examples of impression management techniques that social actors use.

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

4. Use examples to show what Goffman means by the following terms:

a. Front stage

b. Backstage

Application (page 228)

Write your answer here.

Roles (page 228)

1. How does Goffman's view of roles differ from that of functionalism?
2. Briefly explain what Goffman means by role distance. Why might it mean that social actors' role performances are cynical or calculating?

Activity: Media *Goffman and the performed self* (page 228)

A. Write your answers here.

1.

2.

3.

B. Write your answers here.

1.

2.

C. Write your answer here.

Evaluation of symbolic interactionism (page 228)

1. How does interactionism avoid the determinism of structural theories?
2. What do critics of interactionist theory say that it ignores?
3. Briefly outline Reynolds' criticism of interactionism.
4. Briefly outline a criticism of Weber's category of traditional action.

5. Briefly outline a criticism of Goffman's dramaturgical analogy.

Phenomenology (pages 228-229)

1. What is meant in philosophy by 'phenomenon'?

Husserl's philosophy

2. According to Husserl, how do we impose meaning and order on the world?

Schutz's phenomenological sociology (page 229)

Typifications

1. Briefly outline what Schutz means by typifications.
2. Using an example, explain why meanings may be unclear.

3. Briefly explain how typifications stabilise and clarify meanings. Use an example to illustrate your explanation.

4. Briefly explain what Schutz means by 'recipe knowledge'.

The natural attitude

5. Briefly explain what Schutz means by the 'natural attitude'. Use an example to illustrate your explanation.

6. Briefly explain Berger and Luckmann's criticism of Schutz.

Ethnomethodology (pages 229-231)

1. According to Garfinkel, how is social order created?

2. How does Garfinkel's view differ from that of functionalists such as Parsons?

3. How does ethnomethodology differ from interactionism?

Indexicality and reflexivity (page 230)

1. Briefly explain what Garfinkel means by indexicality.
2. Why is indexicality a threat to social order?
3. What is meant by reflexivity?
4. Why is language vital in achieving reflexivity?

Experiments in disrupting social order (page 230)

1. Using an example, briefly explain what a 'breaching experiment' is.
2. According to Garfinkel, in what way do breaching experiments show that social order is not inevitable but an accomplishment?

Suicide and reflexivity (page 230)

1. How do coroners use reflexivity (commonsense knowledge) when classifying deaths as suicides?
2. According to Garfinkel, what is the effect of humans striving to impose order by seeking patterns?
3. Briefly outline Garfinkel's criticism of conventional sociology. How can his criticism be applied to Durkheim's theory of suicide?

Evaluation of ethnomethodology (pages 230-231)

1. Outline four criticisms of ethnomethodology.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

1. Briefly outline the characteristics of the following theories:
 - a. Structural theories

- b. Action theories

Giddens' structuration theory (page 231)

1. Briefly explain what Giddens means by duality of structure.
2. According to Giddens, what is structuration? Use an example to illustrate this concept.

Application (page 231)

Write your answer here.

Reproduction of structures through agency (pages 231-232)

1. Briefly outline the following elements of structure for Giddens:
 - a. Rules
 - b. Resources
2. Briefly explain Giddens' two reasons why actions tend to reproduce structures.
 - a.
 - b.

Changes of structures through agency (page 232)

1. Briefly explain two ways in which agency can change the structure of society.
 - a.
 - b.

Evaluation of Giddens (page 232)

1. According to Archer, why is Giddens wrong to imply that actors can change structures simply by deciding to do so? Use an example to illustrate your answer.

2. According to Craib, why is structuration theory not really a theory at all?

QuickCheck Questions (page 233)

Write your answers below.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

Now answer the Questions to try on page 233 of your textbook.

TOPIC 9 Globalisation, modernity and postmodernity

Learning Objectives

After studying this Topic, you should:

- Know some of the reasons for the trend towards globalisation.
- Understand the difference between modernity, postmodernity and late modernity.
- Be able to evaluate the strengths and limitations of postmodernist and other theories of recent changes in society.



Topic 9

Globalisation, modernity and postmodernity

Getting Started (page 234)

Write your answers to the Getting Started activity here.

1.

2.

3a.

3b.

4.

5.

6.

Modernity and globalisation (pages 235-236)

1. Briefly outline what is meant by modernist theories.

NAPIER PRESS Sociology

115

Modern society (page 235)

1. Briefly outline the following characteristics of modern society:

a. The nation-state

b. Capitalism

c. Rationality, science and technology

d. Individualism

Globalisation (pages 235-236)

1. Define globalisation.

2. Briefly outline how the following changes have helped to bring about globalisation:

a. Technological changes

b. Economic changes

c. Political changes

d. Changes in culture and identity

Postmodernism (pages 236-238)

1. Briefly outline the features of postmodernity.

2. In postmodern society, how do we define ourselves?

Knowledge (pages 236-237)

1. According to postmodernists, what is anti-foundationalism?
2. Briefly outline the two consequences of anti-foundationalism.
 - a.
 - b.
3. Give an example to show why postmodernists reject meta-narratives such as Marxism.
4. Briefly explain what is meant by a relativist position.
5. According to Lyotard, what form does knowledge take in postmodern society?

Baudrillard: simulacra (pages 237)

1. According to Baudrillard, what is postmodern society based on?
2. Briefly explain what Baudrillard means by simulacra. Give an example.

3. Briefly explain what Baudrillard means by hyper-reality.

4. Briefly explain why Baudrillard is critical of television.

Application (page 219)

Write your answers here.

1.

2.

Culture, identity and politics (pages 237)

1. According to postmodernists, why has culture become fragmented and unstable?

2. In postmodern society, why do people lose faith in meta-narratives?

3. According to postmodernists, why is it easy to change our identity in postmodern society?

4. According to Baudrillard, why have we lost the power to improve society?

Evaluation of postmodernism (page 237-238)

1. Briefly outline Philo and Miller's four criticisms of postmodernism.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
2. Briefly explain why Lyotard's theory is self-defeating.
3. According to Best and Kellner, why is postmodernism a weak theory?
4. Briefly outline Harvey's reasons for rejecting the pessimism of postmodernism.

Box 3.12 Poststructuralism: power, truth and discourse (page 238)

1. What does Foucault mean by a discourse?
2. Using an example, explain how discourses can be a form of domination.

3. Briefly explain how the idea of discourses suggests that truth is relative.

4. According to Foucault, why can there be no progress?

Analysis and Evaluation (page 238)

Write your answers here.

1.

2.

3.

Theories of late modernity (pages 238-239)

1. Briefly outline how theories of late modernity differ from postmodernism.

Giddens: reflexivity (page 238-239)

1. Briefly explain the following concepts:

a. Disembedding

b. Reflexivity

Modernity and risk

2. Give an example of each of the following types of risk:

a. Military risk

b. Economic risk

c. Environmental risk

3. According to Giddens, is it possible to deal with risks?

Beck: risk society (page 239)

1. According to Beck, what dangers were present:

a. In the past

b. Today

2. Explain what Beck means by reflexive modernisation.

3. Give an example of how we are more 'risk conscious' in late modernity. Why might our knowledge of risk be distorted?

Risk, politics and progress

4. Briefly explain why Beck disagrees with postmodernism's rejection of the Enlightenment project.

Activity: Media *Risk Society* (page 239)

A. Write your answers here.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Evaluation of theories of late modernity (page 229)

1. Briefly outline a criticism of the concept of reflexivity.
2. According to Rustin, what is the source of risk?
3. What is Hirst's criticism of Beck?
4. Briefly outline the positive aspects of theories of late modernity.

Marxist theories of postmodernity (pages 239-240)

1. In what ways do Marxists agree with Beck and Giddens?
2. In what ways do Marxists disagree with Beck and Giddens?
3. How do Marxists see postmodernity?
4. According to Harvey, when did postmodernity arise?

Flexible accumulation (page 240)

1. What does Harvey mean by flexible accumulation?

2. Briefly outline two ways in which changes to production have brought about the cultural characteristics of postmodernity.
 - a.

 - b.

3. Briefly outline the changes to consumption brought about by flexible accumulation.

4. Why does Jameson see postmodernity as a more developed form of capitalism?

5. What is meant by the compression of time and space?

Politics and progress (page 240)

1. According to Harvey and Jameson, what political changes have occurred due to flexible accumulation?

2. According to Best and Kellner, in what two ways do Marxists differ from postmodernists?

Evaluation (page 240)

1. Briefly outline Marx's view of how the Enlightenment project would be achieved.
2. Why and in what way have Marxist theories of postmodernity abandoned this view?
3. What is the strength of Marxist theories of postmodernity?

QuickCheck Questions (page 241)

Write your answers below.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

Now answer the Questions to try on page 241 of your textbook.

TOPIC 10 Sociology and social policy

Learning Objectives

After studying this Topic, you should:

- Understand the difference between social problems and sociological problems.
- Know the factors that may affect the extent to which sociology can influence social policy.
- Know the main sociological perspectives on the relationship between sociology and social policy, and be able to evaluate their strengths and limitations.



Topic 10

Sociology and social policy

Getting Started (page 242)

Write your answers to the Getting Started activity here.

1.

2a.

2b.

2c.

3a.

3b.

3c.

4.

5.

NAPIER PRESS **Sociology**

128

1. Briefly outline what social policy is generally thought of as being.

Social problems and sociological problems (page 243)

2. How does Worsley define a social problem? Give three examples.
3. According to Worsley, what is a sociological problem?
4. Why might sociologists be interested in topics that are not seen as social problems?
5. Why might some sociologists be interested in solving social problems?

Application (page 243)

Write your answers here.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

The influence of sociology on policy (pages 243-244)

1. Briefly outline the following factors that may affect whether or not sociological research influences policy:
 - a. Electoral popularity

b. Ideological and policy preferences of governments

c. Interest groups

d. Globalisation

e. Critical sociology

f. Cost

g. Funding sources

2. Using an example, briefly explain how social scientists may have an impact on mainstream culture.

The power to define the problem (pages 244)

1. Who has the power to define a problem and how does this affect policy?

Positivism and functionalism (pages 244)

1. According to Comte and Durkheim, what was the role of sociology in relation to social problems?
2. Give an example of a solution to a problem proposed by Durkheim.
3. According to functionalists, what is the role of social policies and the state in society?
4. According to functionalists and positivists, what is the sociologist's role in relation to the state and social policy?
5. How does the role of the sociologist compare to that of a medical researcher?
6. What types of social policy do functionalists favour?
7. Using an example, explain the Marxist criticism of the functionalist approach to social policy.

The social democratic perspective (pages 245)

1. According to Townsend, what should the work of sociologists aim to do with regard to social policy?

2. Briefly explain how the example of the Black Report illustrates the problems of research that conflicts with governmental policy.

Criticisms (pages 245)

1. Briefly outline the Marxist criticism of the social democratic perspective.
2. Why do postmodernists criticise sociologists' attempts to influence policy?

Marxism (pages 245)

1. Briefly outline the ways in which Marxists see policies serving the interests of capitalism.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. According to Marxists, why can social problems not be solved by social policies?

3. According to Marxists, what should be the sociologist's role in relation to social policy?
4. Briefly outline why the Marxist view has been criticised as impractical and unrealistic.

Feminism (pages 245-246)

1. Using an example, briefly explain how feminists see social policies as perpetuating women's subordination.
2. Give an example of an area where feminist research has had an impact on social policy. Which branch of feminism is reflected in these policies?
3. Give an example of a policy that reflects a radical feminist view.
4. Why do Marxist and radical feminists reject the view that reformist social policies can liberate women?

The New Right (pages 246)

1. Briefly outline the New Right view of the role of the state.

2. According to the New Right, what is the consequence of state intervention in areas such as family life?
3. Briefly explain what Murray means by 'perverse incentives'. What does he see as the consequences of these?
4. According to the New Right, what should be the role of the sociologist in relation to social policy?
5. Briefly outline the aims of the Breakdown Britain report.

Influence of New Right thinking

6. Give an example of a policy influenced by New Right thinking.
7. In what area do the New Right think that the state should play a major role?
8. Give a criticism of research carried out by the New Right.

Activity: Discussion *Differing perspectives on policy* (page 246)

Write your summary here.

QuickCheck Questions (page 247)

Write your answers below.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Now answer the Questions to try on page 247 of your textbook.