

# A-Level Sociology



Please take a  
name label

# Expectations

- Listen to others and never interrupt
- Respect that everyone has their own opinion
- No phones
- No food



# Sociology Is...

- On a post-it note, write down the first thing that comes to mind when you think about what Sociology is.
- Hand your **post it note** to me when you are done.





# Sociology



The study of human groups and social life in modern societies.

Studying sociology gives you an in-depth understanding of society, critical thinking skills and the ability to articulate (argue!) an opinion. It has links to the humanities, philosophy, politics, psychology and economics.



# Sociology



Sociologists seek to understand and explain the workings of:

1. **Social behaviour.**

2. **Social institutions** such as the family, education, religion, peer groups.

3. **The patterns of inequality, deprivation and conflict** that happen in nearly every society.

# Culture and Identity: #everydaysexism

Comment on the following everyday expressions:

"Grow a pair"

"Man up"

"Pu\*sy"

1. How are these everyday expressions sexist?

# Question Box



# How you will be assessed

- Assessment is by examination
- Your exams will be in May/June 2020
- You will sit 3 exam papers
- Each exam is 2 hours
- 96 marks per paper
- Question style is a mix of smaller mark and larger mark questions
- Questions often contain an application element using a scenario (see example)
- Maximum mark question is 30 marks



# Example of an exam paper

JUN 17 7 18 2 1 0 1

IB/IG/Jun17/EP

7182/1

2

Do not write outside the box

**Section A**  
**Social influence**  
Answer all questions in this section.

In an experiment, researchers arranged for participants to complete a very personal and embarrassing questionnaire in a room with other people. Each participant was tested individually. The other people were confederates of the experimenter.

In condition 1: the confederates completed the questionnaire.

In condition 2: the confederates refused to complete the questionnaire and asked to leave the experiment.

The researchers tested 15 participants in condition 1, and 15 different participants in condition 2.

The researchers recorded the number of participants who completed the questionnaire in each condition.

**0 1** Identify the type of data in this experiment. Explain your answer. **[2 marks]**

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\_\_\_\_\_

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**0 2** Using your knowledge of social influence, explain the likely outcome of this experiment. **[3 marks]**

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0 2

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# The Topics

1. Culture and Identity
2. Education
3. Media
4. Crime and Deviance
5. Theory and Methods

# The Lessons

## How you will learn

A varied approach is taking to teaching within the department and it will include the following at different points during the course:

- ✓ Lecture style
- ✓ Interactive activities
- ✓ Flipped learning
- ✓ Group work
- ✓ Debates and discussions
- ✓ Quizzes

# The Department

- There are two teachers in the department - Mrs Allen and Miss Norris
- You will have both of us for 5 lessons each (we will teach you separate topics)
- Trips
- Drop-in sessions every week
- Extracurricular opportunities e.g. Human Sciences Council, Newsletter
- Careers Talks

# The Taste of Sociology

During the taster days, you will be introduced to:

- Areas of study in sociology.
- Some of the sociological perspectives which run throughout the various topics covered within the sociology course
- The compulsory unit of education



# Introducing sociological perspectives

Sociologists study social institutions but have different ways of explaining their role and purpose. This leads to different sociological perspectives.

We will illustrate this point through an institution you all know - the education system!



# Think, Pair, Share

What is the purpose of our  
education system?

E.g.. to produce individuals who can read and write.

# Functionalism

- Sees society built up and working like the human body.
- There are interrelated parts which function for, or contribute to, the maintenance of society as a whole.





# Functionalism and Education

- Education is seen as an important agency of socialisation - helps maintain social stability by developing: **value consensus; social harmony; social cohesion.**
  - Agency of socialisation - individuals, groups and institutions that help people learn the culture of a society.
- Helps prepare people for adulthood, citizenship and working life by giving us the **skills** we need.
- Provides people with the means of improving their lives through upward **social mobility.**

# This man disagrees!

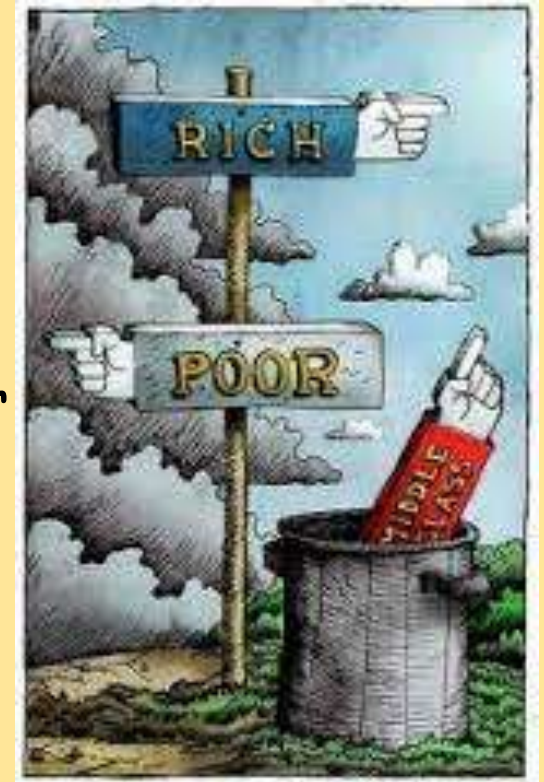


Does anyone know who he is?

What his big idea was?

# Marxism

- Sees society as being shaped by the economic system.
- Society is in a state of capitalism which has two social classes.
  - Bourgeoisie - small, wealthy, powerful class that own the means of production.
  - Proletariat - larger, poorer class that have to sell their labour to the bourgeoisie in order to survive.
- The bourgeoisie are thought to exploit the proletariat.
  - They make them work harder and produce more goods, but keep the profit for themselves.



# Marxism and Education

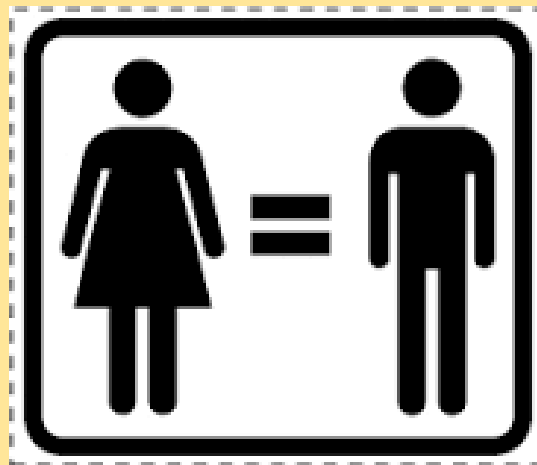
- Marxists see education as a means of **social control**.
- Education is thought to encourage people to be conformist and accept their social position.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YR5ApYxkU-U>  
2:22

# Feminism

- Examines society from the point of view and interests of women.
- Argues that the majority of sociology is male focused and has failed to deal with the concerns, interests and inequality of females.
  - Patriarchy - system whereby males dominate in every area of sociology.



# Feminism and Education

- Feminists see education as a means of teaching gender specific roles and accepting patriarchy.
- Males and females are:
  - Socialised differently - depending on gender they are treated in different ways.
  - Encouraged to study different subjects - boys are still more likely to do sciences than girls.
  - Encouraged to participate in different sports - netball vs. rugby.
- If school is a "society in miniature" then males and females are being prepared for the pre-designed jobs that are available based on their skills and their knowledge.

# Question Box



# Homework

- There are a number of parts to this homework.
  - 1) Produce a set of notes on the different sociological perspectives to solidify your understanding of them.
  - 2) Identify an event or situation that has happened recently which has been reported in the media. Explain why this event or scenario has happened **according to one or more sociological perspectives**. Include the original article/website print out. Eg. What might a Feminist say about the #metoo movement?
- *You have been provided with a CRIB sheet for this and the information will also be on the school website.*





# Today's Drop In

- ...Call into room 915 to find out more about the course
- ....To explore some examples of how Sociology relates to the real world
- .....To ask for help with your summer work
- .....To view the textbooks that you will be using
- ....To ask questions

