

SOCIOLOGY SUMMER TASK 2017

Key Concepts Task

Read pages 67-74 on the role of education in society

Now complete the Key concepts table

Key Concept	Definition
Functionalism	
Social solidarity	
Specialist skills	
Meritocracy	
Role allocation	
Marxism	
The capitalist Class	
The working class	
The ideological state apparatus	

Correspondence principle	
Hidden curriculum	

Complete the following questions

1. Functionalists believe that we live in a meritocratic society. What does this mean and how does education contribute towards meritocracy? (6 marks)

2. Item A

Functionalists see education as being an important agent of secondary socialisation, preparing pupils for adulthood and taking their place in wider society. Functionalists are of the view that education provides young people with equal opportunities, creating the potential for upward social mobility. Any inequalities which may arise within education are a result of the inevitable differences which exist between people in terms of their ability level and work ethic. However critics of functionalism question the fairness of the education system.

Applying the material from Item A , explain two functions of education according to functionalists. (10 marks)

3. What alternative names are often used to describe the ruling classes and the working classes. (2 marks)

4. Briefly explain what is meant by 'capitalism'. (2 marks)

Summer Task Part 2 - Preparation for your A Level sociology course

Step 1: Purchase a lever arch folder

You will need a folder of this size to be able to hold all of your material for the year. Anything smaller than this will not be enough.

Step 2: Purchase dividers

You will need a pack of 20 dividers to use for your folder. It may be useful to buy a pack that has a front sheet where you can write the full title of the section, and then the dividers are numbered, as this gives you plenty of space to label the dividers appropriately. Please label each of them with the following:

1. What is Sociology
2. Education: The role of Education in Society
3. Education: Class differences in achievement (internal and external factors)
4. Gender differences in education achievement
5. Ethnic differences in educational achievement
6. Educational policy and inequality
7. Research Methods : Choosing a research method and Education: as a research context
8. Experiments and using experiments in an educational context
9. Questionnaires and using questionnaires to investigate education
10. Interviews and using interviews to investigate education
11. Participant observation and using observation to investigate education
12. Secondary sources and using secondary sources to investigate education
13. Families and Households: Couples
14. Families and Households: Childhood
15. Families and Households: Theories of the family
16. Families and Households: Demography
17. Families and Households: Changing family patterns
18. Families and Households: Family diversity
19. Families and Households: Families and social policy
20. Assessed work including Teacher assessed, Peer assessed, Self assessed.

Step 3: Purchase a pad of lined paper with a margin

Ideally, your notebook should have pages that you can take out. Students are encouraged to file their notes away regularly to keep all of their information in one place (your folder). We also sometimes ask you to complete assessments/essays in these that we will need to collect, so we need to be able to remove them from the notebook.

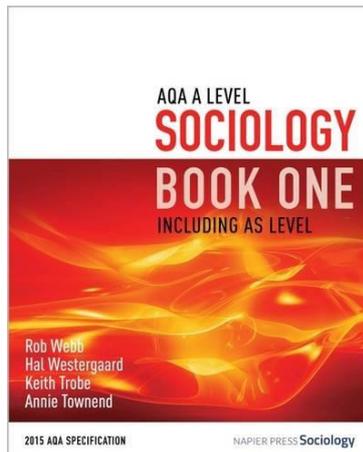
Step 4: Purchase a textbook

The core text that we use during the first year of sociology is:

AQA A Level Sociology Book 1:

Published by Napier Press. Authors are Robb Webb, Hal Westergaard, Keith Trobe, Annie Townend.

ISBN-10:0-9540079-1-3



It is a course requirement that you purchase this textbook as we use it consistently throughout the course. You are expected to bring this, and your (neatly organised) folder to every psychology lesson.

Over the course of A Level Sociology, we have generally found that students who manage to remain consistently organised throughout the course, and who bring all of their resources with them to each lesson, perform better in the exams. This is because they have easy access to all of the material that they need to succeed and they know exactly where to find the information that they need.