

Sociology

1. Revise over time

Break down each area into small, manageable steps. Your Revision Guide includes a section near the front that will help you with this. Start your revision now, so that you do not have it all to do just before the exams.

2. Learn the keywords

Knowing a wide range of sociological vocabulary will really help you in the exam. You can't answer a question if you don't understand it! Go through the keyword section of your Revision Guide and highlight the words you know. This will give you a really clear picture of what you still need to conquer. Over time, you will have more highlighted words, and this will help your confidence too! Another great way to do this is to write one keyword in the centre of a page or a flashcard and then see how many other words you can link to it. Alternatively, create keyword flashcards with the word on one side and the answer on the other – test yourselves and your friends!

3. Use different resources

Your Revision Guide is great and should form a part of the revision you do. However, there are some great YouTube channels and websites that can help you too. Our MS Teams area has other resources that will add some variety to your revision to prepare you for the exam.

4. Learn the main sociological approaches

Create a revision resource for each of the perspectives: Functionalist, Marxist, Feminist and Interactionist (New Right is also useful for the Families, Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification units). List three or four facts about each, revisit these over time, so that you are confident with them in the exam.

5. Learn the key theorists

If you do not know which theorist / researcher said what, then start learning them now! Make a flashcard, or similar, write the name of the sociologist and then list four or five things about them. For example, Parsons, Functionalist, two functions of the family – socialisation and stabilisation of adult personalities, 'warm bath'. Before you know it, you will be able to recite these from memory with ease! You have been given some useful resources to help you with this – use them.

6. Use websites

- <https://www.tutor2u.net/live/archive?subject=sociology&level=gcse> – replay archive for live streamed interactive revision sessions covering all topics on the AQA specification
- <https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/collections> - collection of revision videos, study notes, questions and other support materials, by topic group

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/store/student-revision-support?search=&level=2998&board=2993&sort=recent> – flash cards and revision guides here (can also be purchased on Amazon)

7. Use YouTube videos

Some people find videos a really effective way to revise. Some of the better ones are:

All Sociology: <https://www.youtube.com/@allsociology>

Tutor2U: <https://www.youtube.com/@tutor2u-official> (has a wide range of videos, from 60 second short clips, to 'how to answer ...' instructional videos.

Websites and YouTube channels are all linked on our MS Teams area.

8. Practice Past Papers

The more you practice answering exam papers, the more confident you will be. You will also find that they really help you with that all important timing! There are lots online and on our MS Teams area. You could even ask your teacher for a printed copy. Don't forget, there are lots of questions, and possible answers, in your Revision Guide!

9. Self-belief and SMART thinking

Believe in yourself. The, 'I can ...!' attitude is a powerful thing. Use SMART targets: Specific (e.g. 'Learn keywords linked to 'conjugal roles''), Measurable (e.g. 'Learn **five** keywords linked to 'conjugal roles''), Achievable (make sure that what you want to achieve is doable), Relevant (e.g. 'Learn keywords linked to 'conjugal roles **and answer a 4 mark question about this area**''), and Time-Bound (set yourself a time / date when you will have done this by). Start off with small, achievable steps and think long term rather than, "I need to know it now!".