

# Bryn Hafren Sociology

## GCSE Revision Pack

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### General advice to students:

- Revise in small sharp sessions; little and often is the best rule of thumb.
- Before you begin revision, sort out your notes.
- Read through all of your work and make sure that you understand things.
- If you have problems, ask for help.
- Ask for extra notes if you need them.
- Use the school shared file system and download questions and notes.
- Decide your learning in order of priority and concentrate on the questions that you know will be on the paper.
- Get plenty of sleep.
- Write down notes, the process of writing will help you learn.
- Record notes onto cassette tape and play it back to yourself.
- Relax as much as you can because stress hinders learning.
- Take regular exercise to keep your brain ticking over.
- Buy one or two nice pens that flatter your handwriting. Have one you like and one as a spare. Neat papers will please the examiner.

## ***The Examination Format***

- Look at all of the past papers that you have been given.
- Look at old tests and examinations.
- These notes will guide you in how to attempt Sociology GCSE.
- The examination lasts for 2½ hours.
- Read the questions carefully before choosing which to answer.

<b>Section A</b>	<b>Section B</b>
Compulsory stimulus response question on the <b>Introductory Core</b> module	Compulsory stimulus response question on the <b>Differentiation</b> module
Choice of extended answers on the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Family</li><li>• Education</li><li>• Work and Unemployment</li></ul>	Choice of extended answers on the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Social Class</li><li>• Protest and Participation</li><li>• Crime and Deviance</li></ul>
You choose just one to answer.	You choose just one to answer.

You are strongly advised to select the topics that you will concentrate on for the examination.

You must know the compulsory core modules really well. The easy marks are in these sections of the paper.

Have one choice topic, which you know really well, in each section of the paper and one as a back-up topic.

### ***Preparing your topics***

- Collect information from books and newspapers to add to your notes.
- Read around the subject and watch television programmes if you can.
- Talk to adults that you know for some of their ideas.
- Use the Internet in school to add to your notes.
- Learn the vocabulary of Sociology.

## Learn the Vocabulary of Sociology

These pages will offer you some words and meanings. Learn them off by heart. Get friends and family to test you if necessary. You can show understanding by writing your own examples next to the words.

Word	Meaning	Example
<b>Socialisation</b>	Is the process of learning how to behave	
<b>Informal socialisation</b>	We are trained by friends and families	
<b>Formal socialisation</b>	We are trained by people who set out to change us	
<b>Nature theory</b>	We behave as we do because we are like animals	
<b>Nurture theory</b>	We behave as we do because other people train us into this.	
<b>Deviant</b>	Someone who breaks the rules of society because they are mad or bad	
<b>Norms</b>	The behaviour that is normal for any situation. It can be normal to break rules as well as keep them	
<b>Values</b>	The things that we think are important about society and that we regard as sacred	
<b>Mores</b>	Our sense of right and wrong	
<b>Sex</b>	The physical differences between males and females	
<b>Gender</b>	The social differences between male and female	

<b>Moral codes</b>	The sense we have of right and wrong that stops us committing crime	
<b>Legal codes</b>	The laws that are made	
<b>Formal sanctions</b>	These are punishments that come from breaking the law or rules	
<b>Informal sanctions</b>	These are punishments from breaking moral rules	
<b>Inequality</b>	The differences between people's chances in life	
<b>Life chances or life style</b>	The differences between people's quality of life	
<b>Culture</b>	The set of rules and ideas that we have about who we are and where we belong in society	
<b>Ethnicity</b>	The national group that you think that you belong to	
<b>Value laden</b>	Contains opinions	
<b>Value free</b>	Is a statement of fact	
<b>Objective</b>	Is value free and scientific	
<b>Subjective</b>	Contains personal feelings and is unscientific	
<b>Absolute poverty</b>	When people have none of the things that they need for life	

<b>Relative poverty</b>	When people are poor compared to other people	
<b>Stereotype</b>	A belief about someone based on appearance or culture that does not take into account their real personality	
<b>Working class</b>	People who work with their skills with their hands for a living	
<b>Middle class</b>	People who work with their skills with their brains for a living	
<b>Overt curriculum</b>	Things we are taught in school deliberately	
<b>National curriculum</b>	Things that the government says all children should learn in school	
<b>Hidden curriculum</b>	Things that we are taught in school by accident but which contain values	
<b>Social stratification</b>	The layers that we have in society	
<b>Marxist theory</b>	The world is divided into rich and poor for the benefit of rich people	
<b>Nuclear family</b>	Mum, Dad and the children in one house	
<b>Extended family</b>	Lots of relatives live close to or even with each other and support each other	
<b>Labelling theory</b>	People are labelled by other people and then behave in that way	
<b>Moral panic</b>	People get hysterical about things because of the newspapers and cannot think clearly	

## ***Learn the following lists of things - you can find them in your units***

You are advised to concentrate on the lists that are from the topics that you will study for the examination first. If you try to learn everything it will be hard work.

If you work with a friend, you could talk through ideas. It is sensible to swap your notes. Print or photocopy two copies and give one set to your friend.

Study your chosen topics first and then worry about the others. You can't do everything.

- **Five** reasons why divorce rates have gone up since the turn of the century
- **Three** reasons why sociologists reject nature theories of human behaviour
- **Five** reasons why some people are nervous about what the newspapers tell us about the world.
- **Four** different reasons why some people like to go to work
- **Five** ways in which women's lives have changed
- **Five** reasons why women's lives have changed
- **Five** ways in which people from another culture are different from us
- **One** family style that is very different from our ideas of family
- **Five** things that can influence what an editor chooses to put into a newspaper
- **Three** reasons why girls commit crime less than boys do
- **Three** reasons why people wanted comprehensive schools
- **Three** reasons why people rejected comprehensive schools
- **Three** reasons why some people are racist
- **Four** laws that tell children what they can and cannot do
- **Four** differences between social class and caste
- **Four** reasons why rich people tend to have easier or better lives than poor people
- **Four** reasons why we need schools for the good of society
- **Four** ways in which you can do better in school

## ***Practising examination techniques***

Attempt some questions at home. Use an alarm clock or a stopwatch to time your answers.

Use memory cards to help you learn facts.

Learn to read the questions carefully.

**Get your work checked regularly.**

## ***General tips for success***

Examinations are testing you on

- Knowledge
- Explanations
- Understanding
- Evaluation

If you do not show these in the examination you will lose marks.

Fact questions are usually worth one or two marks. (What does \*\*\* mean?) You get marks for examples and explanations.

Understanding and evaluation questions are worth between 7 and 10 marks. (Why is \*\*\* more common now than in the past?)

Do not write long answers to fact questions. Write very long answers to evaluation questions and explain your reasons for your views. Give examples to show understanding. Give lots of different reasons and ideas with evidence.

Many questions will ask you to explain the difference between one word and another. Your answer should always begin:

*The difference between \*\*\* and \*\*\* is that*

If you are given graphs to read - look at the small print because there is usually a question that asks you about something that is not actually shown on the graph but which is written underneath it.

If there are words that you do not understand, do not panic, because you will always be able to work out the meanings from the other things around it. They will do this to you as a test of your common sense.

If you do not know an answer, then use your common sense and sociological skill to write something. There is never a mark for nothing!

## **Here are some practice questions for you to have a go at:**

What is the difference between primary and secondary socialisation? (5)

1. What is the difference between **nature** and **nurture** theories of human behaviour? (5)
2. Explain the meaning of **cultural relativity** with reference to a culture other than our own. (8)
3. What is the difference between **sex** and **gender**? (5)
4. How do the mass media influence our leisure time activities? (10)
5. Can sociologists rely on **official statistics** when looking at crime? (10) *Your answer here should criticise official statistics but also point out how they can be useful.*
6. Why have divorce rates risen since the beginning of this century? (8) *Do not give personal reasons why some people divorce. Talk about society.*
7. What is **streaming** in school? How may it cause some children to do less well than they ought to do? (10) *Talk about labelling theory and the idea of an anti-school subculture.*
8. What is meant by the term **social mobility**? (4)
9. Why have some people criticised the **Registrar General's Index of Social Class**? (10) *Talk about the new social class index that will be used in 2001 as well as about the problems that there are with the old Index.*
10. What is meant by **youth culture**? (4)
11. Suggest ways in which the mass media can actually cause crime. (8) *Look up folk devils and moral panics for this one.*
12. Give three reasons why people may have come from other cultures to live in Britain. (6)
13. Why are some people **racists**? (9) *Revise the reasons for racism from the units and use the technical terms. Do not rely on your common sense but show sociological knowledge.*
14. Suggest reasons why girls have begun to do better in GCSE than boys in recent years. (10) *Give a nice wide variety of suggestions backed up with some facts here.*
15. Why do people from middle class backgrounds tend to do better in school than children from working class backgrounds? (10) *Offer a lot of ideas here and think around the topic. Do not forget to mention values and norms!*
16. What effects will the increasing number of old people have on our society? (10)
17. Why are most people in prison male and working class? (10) *Offer a lot of ideas here and think around the topic. Do not forget to mention values and norms!*
18. Explain the Marxist theory of social class and offer some criticisms of this view of society. (10)

## Section A: What are the key topics for questioning?

This is not an exclusive guide. The examiner can and will ask questions that are designed to test your understanding. This is simply a list of suggestions as to areas that are popular for questioning.

Topic area or module name	Key concepts and ideas
Introductory core (compulsory)	Socialisation Norms, values, mores Culture Gender socialisation Agencies of socialisation (media, work, education) Processes of socialisation Types of socialisation
The Family	Types of family structure in other cultures Types of family structure in Britain Changes in family structure in Britain Roles of men and women in families (conjugal roles) Growth of single parenthood Divorce - causes of divorce change patterns Divorce - implications for society of divorce change
Education	The present day education system and how it developed Reasons why society needs schools Why do some people seem to do better or worse than other groups? The link between education and earning power Home and cultural reasons for failure School reasons for failure
Work and unemployment	Why do people work? What is the difference between work and leisure? Present day patterns of employment Women's work Changes in patterns of employment this century Unemployment

Write down the topics that will become your specialist areas here.

## Section B: What are the key topics for questioning?

This is not an exclusive guide. The examiner can and will ask questions that are designed to test your understanding. This is simply a list of suggestions as to areas that are popular for questioning. You may find that ideas that you have studied for Section A will reappear in this section in a different way.

Stratification and Differentiation should be studied together because class is a form of differentiation. Many sociologists, but not all, would argue that it is the most important form of differentiation

Topic area or module name	Key concepts and ideas
Differentiation (compulsory)	Prejudice Discrimination Stereotypes Social class Gender Age - childhood and old age Population structures and changes Immigration and emigration Ethnicity and the causes of racism
Stratification	Social class and how to define it. Life chances and class Marxist definitions of class - rich and poor Weber and class - status, prestige, wealth Wealth and social class Social class and movement between classes The glass ceiling Changes in the class structure of Britain
Crime and Deviance	Problems we have with defining crime Who commits crime? Who is punished? Sociological theories to account for crime: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Labelling theory</li> <li>• Marxist or social inequality theory</li> <li>• Sub-culture and bad surroundings theory</li> </ul> The 'Dark' figure of crime The police and agencies of law and order
Protest and Participation	What are the beliefs of each of the political parties? Totalitarianism and Dictatorships Democracy How democratic is Britain? How does the voting system work? What factors can affect voting patterns? Pressure groups and interest groups Can the mass media affect the politics of our society?

Write down the topics that will become your specialist areas here.