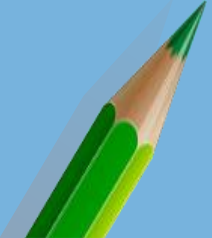


A Level



SOCIOLOGY

Introduction



AQA A Level Sociology

Introduction lesson

What is Sociology and why does it matter?

Sociology is the study of the society in which we live.

It examines how we are influenced and shaped through being members of groups and organisations.

It concentrates on:

- the way we make society what it is, and
- the way society makes us what we are.

The function of sociology, as of every science, is to reveal that which is hidden.

Pierre Bourdieu

Very few of us live our lives on our own – we are all in regular contact with other people and we interact with other people in groups and in various organisations.

Take two minutes to list all the people, group you come into contact with.



We are all members of groups such as families, peer groups and friendship groups and we will come into contact with organisations such as the:

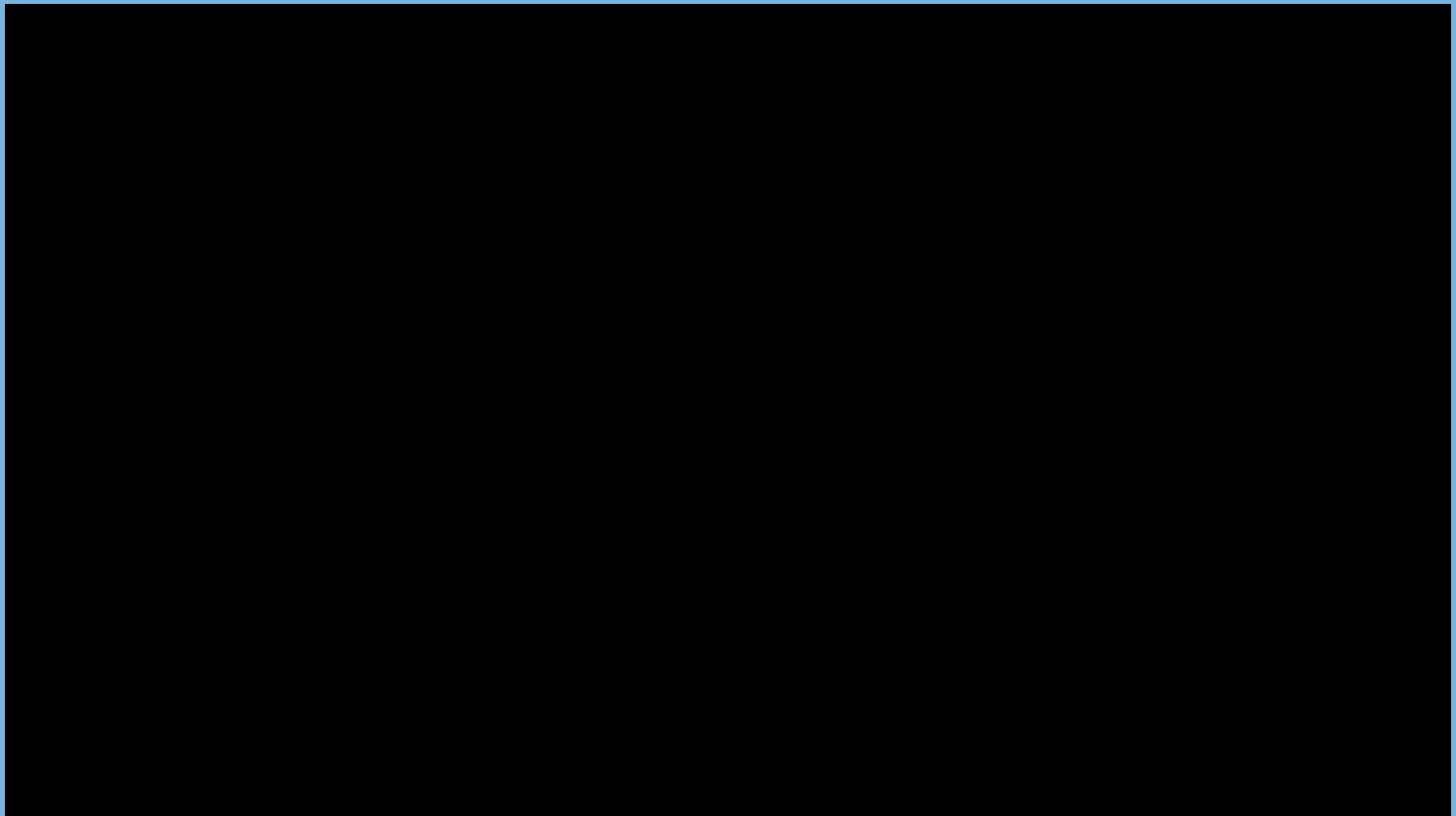
school/college
workplace
church
legal system
political system
media...



... how these forms of social structure affect human attitudes, actions, and opportunities?

Social Conformity Experiment

Surely Humans would not conform without knowing why?



Discussion Question

Who decides what you believe, what you wear, how you dress and what music you enjoy? Who decides how you behave?

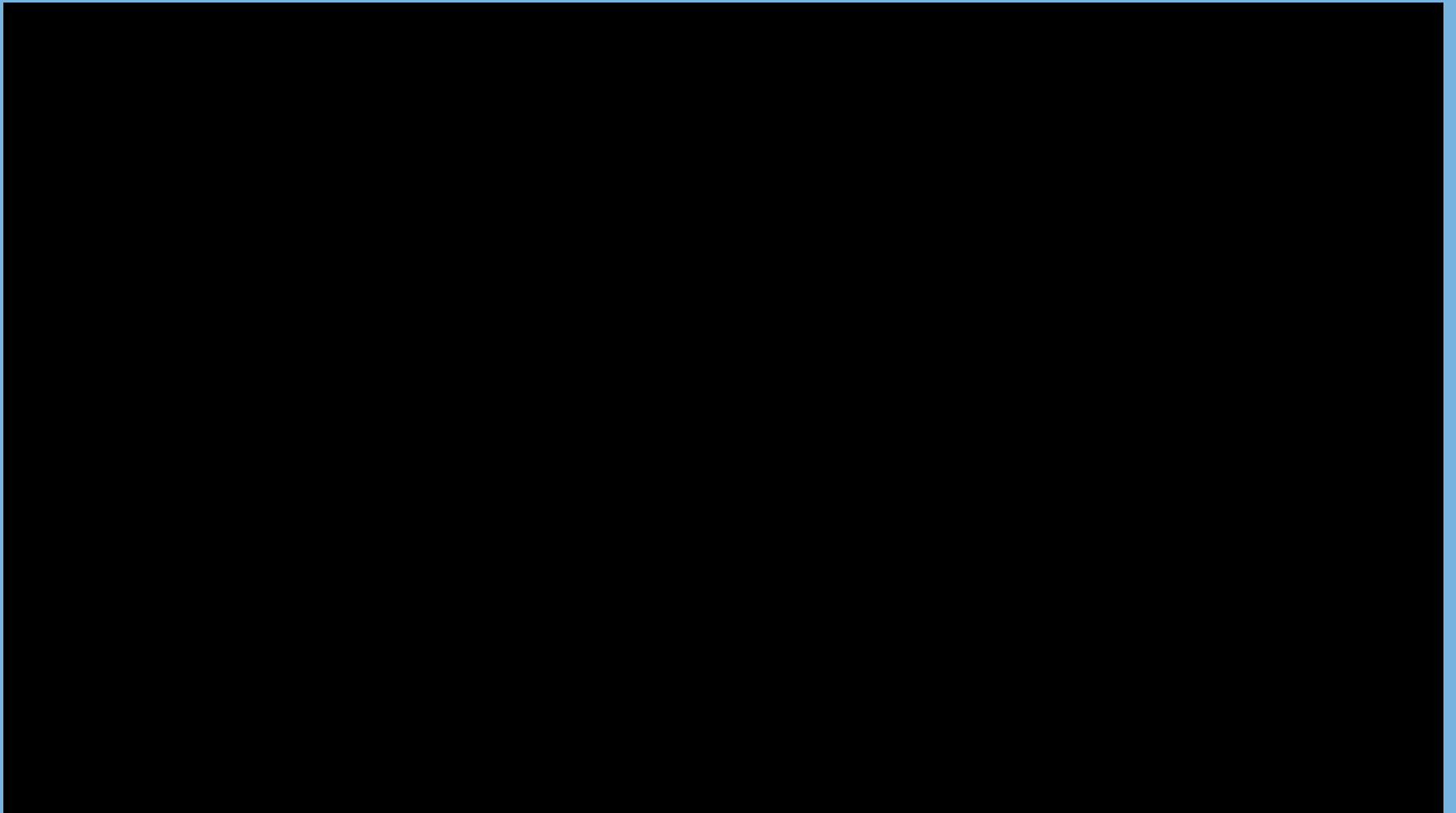
Is it you?

What do you think? Why do you think it? Have you got any proof? What would someone who disagreed with you say?

{in•flu•ence} v.
1. to affect the nature, development, or condition of;



So, what is Sociology?



Some of the 'Big Questions' for A-Level Sociology Students

- To what extent is the individual shaped by society?
- To what extent does our social class background affect our life chances?
- To what extent does our gender affect our life chances?
- To what extent does our ethnicity affect our life chances?
- What is the role of institutions in society – do they perform positive functions, or simply work in the interests of the powerful and against the powerless?
- How and why has British society changed over the last 50 years?

Questions

1. Dogs don't like _____.
2. Most footballers are _____.
3. Women are better at _____ than men.
4. Cheating in an exam is _____.
5. There are _____ days in a week.
6. It is wrong to _____.
7. Pandas eat _____.
8. At school you learn to _____.
9. It is bad manners to _____.
10. In summer, it is normal to _____.
11. A family has _____.
12. _____ will win Euro 2024.

We're going to share our answers to the following questions:

2, 3, 6, 8, 10, 12

Why might your answers be similar?

Why might they be different?

Norms and Values

Norms = what you **do**

These are the rules about how you should **behave** in different situations, for example:

- how we should dress in different places
- how we should speak to different types of people in society (adults vs children)
- the correct way to eat and drink

Norms are what we consider 'normal'.

Values = what you **think**

These are the **attitudes and beliefs** we are taught to have. These include:

- the difference between right and wrong
- what is good/bad
- what counts as 'success'
- the differences between childhood/adulthood

Task:

Silently, by yourself, decide whether the statement below are norms or values.

1. Believing it is wrong to steal
2. Putting your cutlery together on the plate when you finish eating
3. Saying thank you

Your task:

- You were on a plane that has crashed into the sea. It was a soft landing & no one was hurt. It was a very small plane carrying 40 people- with a range of ages, genders, ethnicities, beliefs, sexualities and levels of fitness.
- You have landed near to an exceptionally remote and small island, that has never been discovered by humans. The plants are exotic and may be edible and there are lots of wild animals.
- You have no way off this island.



What would you do first?

In pairs, draw out the shape of an island. Then, consider the following:

- How are you going to make decisions on the Island- do you need a leader? How will they be chosen?
- How will you organise your immediate survival? Will everyone organise themselves?
- Will people do what they are good at, or what they want to do?
- How will you make sure everyone is safe?
- Will everyone get the same amount of the basic essentials? (Food, size of shelter, etc?)
- Will everyone have to do the same amount of work?
- Is everyone of the same importance?

What will you learn and
how you will be assessed?

AQA
Realising potential

AS AND
A-LEVEL
SOCIOLOGY

AS (7191)
A-level (7192)

Specifications

For teaching from September 2015 onwards
For AS exams in May/June 2016 onwards
For A-level exams in May/June 2017 onwards

A Level Sociology

- **Two Year Course**
- **Three Exams (2 hours each)**

Unit 1: Education with Theory and Methods

Unit 2: Families and Households + Beliefs in Society

Unit 3: Crime and Deviance

Future Courses/Careers:

- Teaching
- Criminology
- Social Work
- Law
- Media
- Charity Work
- International Development
- Politics and Social Policy

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods

What's assessed

Compulsory content 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3

Assessed

- 2 hour written exam
- 80 marks
- 33.3% of A-level

Questions

- Education: short answer and extended writing, 50 marks
- Methods in Context: extended writing, 20 marks
- Theory and Methods: extended writing, 10 marks

Paper 2: Topics in Sociology

What's assessed

Section A: one from option 1: 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.3 or 4.2.4

Section B: one from option 2: 4.2.5, 4.2.6, 4.2.7 or 4.2.8

Assessed

- 2 hour written exam
- 80 marks
- 33.3% of A-level

Questions

Section A: extended writing, 40 marks

Section B: extended writing, 40 marks

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

What's assessed

Compulsory content 4.3.1, 4.3.2

Assessed

- 2 hour written exam
- 80 marks
- 33.3% of A-level

Questions

Crime and Deviance: short answer and extended writing, 50 marks

Theory and Methods: extended writing, 30 marks

Plenary

What is Sociology?

How can Sociology help us understand society?

How can we use Sociology to shape the world around us?

