

Education (Paper 1)

Functions of the education system

- Functionalist views of education
- Marxist views of education
- New right view of education

Differential educational achievement

- Trends and patterns in education by social class, gender and ethnicity
- Material deprivation
- Cultural differences
- Cultural capital
- Linguistic differences
- Changes to the economy
- Changing attitudes to gender roles
- Influence of feminism to education
- Racism in wider society

In-school processes

- Setting and streaming
- Pupil subcultures
- Pupil identities
- Selection policies and marketisation
- Institutional racism
- Ethnocentric curriculum
- Feminisation of education
- Teachers' attitudes to social class, gender, and ethnicity
- Influences on subject choice in education

Impact of educational policy

- Selection policies (e.g. tripartite system)
- Policies of marketisation
- Vocational education
- Impacts of privatisation
- Impact of globalisation on educational policy

Crime and Deviance (Paper 3)

Crime, deviance, social order and social control

- Functionalist explanations of crime and deviance
- Subcultural explanations of crime and deviance
- Marxist and neo-Marxist explanations of crime and deviance
- Interactionist explanations of crime and deviance
- Right realist explanations of crime and deviance
- Left realist explanations of crime and deviance

Social distribution of crime and deviance

- Trends in victimisation and offending by social class, gender and ethnicity
- White collar and corporate crimes
- Chivalry thesis
- Liberation thesis
- Control theories
- Sex role theory
- Institutional racism
- Role of police and judiciary in selective law enforcement
- Hegemonic masculinity

Globalisation and crime in contemporary society

- Organised crime
- Global corporate crime
- Green crime
- Role of global capitalism
- Role of media in creating crime (e.g. cybercrimes)
- Reporting of crime
- Media representations of crime
- Human rights violations and state crimes

Crime control, surveillance, punishment, and victimology

- Crime prevention strategies
- Role of prisons and other forms of punishment
- Surveillance
- Positivist and critical victimology
- Role of the criminal justice system and other agencies



THEORY AND METHODS (PAPER 1 AND PAPER 3)

Research Methods

Research design

- Pilot studies
- Sampling methods
- Primary and secondary data
- Practical issues
- Ethical issues
- Theoretical issues

Quantitative and qualitative methods

- Experiments
- Surveys
- Interviews
- Observations
- Official statistics
- Personal, public, and historical documents

Practical, ethical and theoretical considerations when selecting methods and topics.

Sociological Theory

Consensus and conflict theories

- Functionalism
- Marxism and neo-Marxism
- Feminism

Structural and social action theories

- Social action theory
- Interactionism
- Ethnomethodology

Relationship between theory and methods

- Positivism, interpretivism and realism

Key Debates in Sociology

Are we in a postmodern age?

- Features of modernity, postmodernity, and late modernity

Can sociology be seen as scientific?

- Positivism
- Interpretivism
- Realism
- Paradigms in natural sciences

Should sociology inform social policy?

- Social vs sociological issues
- Theoretical perspectives of social policy
- Relationship between sociology and social policy

Can sociology be value-free?

- Objectivity and subjectivity in research
- Value freedom, committed sociology, influence of ideology in research



PAPER 2 OPTIONS

Section A

Culture and Identity

Different types of culture

- subculture, mass culture, folk culture, high and low culture, popular culture and global culture

Sociological views of culture and how individuals are socialised

- Functionalist
- Marxist and neo-Marxist
- Feminist
- Interactionist
- Postmodern

Sociological views of how individuals are socialised into different forms of identity

- Age, gender, social class, ethnicity, sexuality, nationality, and disability

How individuals' identities are shaped by age, gender, social class, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, and nationality

How individuals' identities are shaped by their relationships with:

- Employment
- Leisure
- Consumption
- Globalisation

To what extent do individuals have free will over their identity formation?

Families and Households

Sociological explanations of the role of the family and its relationship to wider society including the economy

- Functionalist views
- Marxist views
- Feminist views
- New Right

Sociological explanations of the role of social policy in shaping family life

- Functionalism, Marxism, feminism, new right and social democratic views

Changes to the structure and organisation of family life

- Changing attitudes to relationships including lone parent, lone person, same sex, cohabitation
- Increased choice of how people construct their personal lives

Gender roles and relationships in the family

- Changes to division of labour and power relationships in family

Changing nature of childhood

- Childhood as social construction
- Nature and experiences of children
- Influence of social class, gender and ethnicity on childhood
- Cross-cultural and historic changes to childhood

Demographic changes to UK society

- Migration, birth rates, death rates,
- Impacts of ageing population on UK society

Health

Social construction of health, illness and disability

- Biomedical model
- Social models of health
- Iatrogenesis
- Medicalisation of society
- Social and cultural definitions of health and illness

Unequal distribution of health chances in the UK

- Patterns of health by age, social class, gender, ethnicity, and geographical region
- Cultural, behavioural, and material explanations for differences in health chances

Patterns and explanations for inequalities in access to healthcare provision

- Inequalities in access by age, disability, ethnicity, gender, region, and social class

Natural and social distribution of mental illness

- Social construction of mental illness
- Distribution of mental illness by social class, gender, age, and ethnicity
- Biomedical, structural, and interactionist explanations of mental illness

Work, Poverty and Welfare

Nature, existence, and persistence of poverty in contemporary society

- Absolute poverty
- Relative poverty
- Subjective poverty
- Social exclusion

Structural, individual and cultural explanations of poverty

- Functionalist
- Weberian
- Feminist
- Social democratic
- New Right

Distribution of poverty, wealth and income

- Pattern of the distribution of poverty, wealth and income across social class, gender, ethnicity, age, disability and family structure

Responses and solutions to poverty

- State provision of welfare
- Means-tested and universal benefits
- Private solutions
- Charities
- Voluntary sector
- Informal

Organisation of the labour process

- Sociological explanations of control of labour – including functionalist, Marxist and Weberian explanations

Section B

Beliefs in Society

Ideology, science and religion

- Defining religion, ideology and science
- Science as a social construct

Theoretical views of religion

- Functionalist explanations
- Marxist and neo-Marxist explanations
- Feminist explanations
- Weberian explanations

Relationship between religion and social change

- Is religion a conservative force or a force for change?
- Impacts of social change on religious participation and practices

Religious organisations

- Cults
- Sects

Global Development

Definitions and measurements of development

- Economic
- Social
- Composite

Different perspectives on the nature, extent and causes of development

- Modernisation theory
- Marxist (Dependency) theory
- Neo-liberal
- Post-development theory

Influence of globalisation on cultural, economic and political relationships

The role of different agencies of development

- Transnational corporations (TNCs)
- International Governmental Organisations (IGOs)

Role of medicine, healthcare professionals and globalised pharmaceutical industry

- Sociological explanations of role of healthcare professionals (functionalist, Marxist, feminist, Weberian, postmodernist and interactionist)
- Changes in medical profession in contemporary society
- Role of global pharmaceutical companies

Media

The New Media

- Theoretical views of new media including neophilic and cultural pessimist approaches
- Definitions of new media
- Usage and control of new media

Ownership and control of media

- Sociological explanations of media control and ownership including: pluralist and Marxist views
- Trends in ownership of traditional media
- Control over content produced by media

Media, globalisation, and popular culture

- Definitions of culture, including global culture
- Impacts of globalisation on popular culture

Role of technology in the labour process

- Control
- Deskilling
- Organisation of labour

The significance of work and worklessness for people's lives and life chances

- Work as form of identity, alienation, work satisfaction, well-being, and purpose
- Impacts of worklessness on life chances and identity
- Impacts of globalisation on process of employment

Stratification & Differentiation

Stratification and differentiation by social class, gender, ethnicity, and age

- Functionalist views
- Marxist views
- Feminist views
- Weberian views
- Postmodern views

Dimensions of inequality in power and status, differences in life chances by:

- Age
- Gender
- Social class
- Ethnicity
- Disability
- How differences in individuals' access to power, status and resources will influence their life chances

- Churches
- Denominations
- New Age movements
- Changing patterns of religious membership of different religious movements

Relationship between different social groups and religious organisations

- Gender
- Age
- Ethnicity
- Social class
- Explanation for changes in patterns of religiosity of these groups

The significance of religion and religiosity in the contemporary world

- Measuring religious practice
- Secularisation
- Impacts of globalisation of religious practices and membership
- Fundamentalism and growth of religious movements

- Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs)
- Nation-states

Impacts of aid, trade, industrialisation, urbanisation, environmental concerns and war and conflict on development

- Aid
- Trade
- Industrialisation
- Urbanisation
- Environment
- Sustainable development
- Causes and impacts of war and conflict

Aspects of development

- Education
- Employment
- Gender equality
- Health
- Demographic change

- Extent to which globalisation reflects global culture or is a form of cultural imperialism

Selection and Presentation of News Content

- Social construction of news
- Influence of technology, organisation, and ideology on selection of news broadcasts
- Influence of audience, advertisers, government, and media editors on selection of news content

Media representations of gender, social class, ethnicity, age, sexuality and disability

- How are these groups are represented through traditional and new media?
- How have these representations have changed over time?

Relationship between media, its content, and its audience

- How does the media shape audience behaviour?
- What problems are there with measuring the impact of media on its audience?

Problems with defining and measuring social class

- How is social class measured?
- The use of education, occupation and social status in measuring social class
- Objective and subjective measurements of social class

Changes to structure of inequality

- Changes to class structure in the UK
- Growth of income and wealth inequality
- Influence of globalisation on inequality
- Impacts of migration and immigration on inequality

Nature, extent, and patterns of social mobility

- Patterns of social mobility
- Types of social mobility
- Impacts of changes in social mobility in the UK
- Problems with measuring patterns of social mobility