

AS Level Sociology Specification (Draft)

Paper	Section	Key Questions	Section	Key Questions
01 Socialisation, Culture and Identity	A Introducing socialisation, culture and identity	1. What is culture? 2. What is socialisation? 3. What is identity?	B Option 1: Families and Relationships	1. How are family life and relationships changing? 2. To what extent are roles and relationships within families and households changing?
			Option 2: Youth Subcultures	1. How are youth subcultures formed? Why do they develop? 2. Why do some young people participate in deviant subcultures?
			Option 3: Media	1. How are different social groups represented in the media? 2. What effect do the media have on audiences?
02 Researching and Understanding Social Inequalities*	A Research methods and researching social inequalities	1. What is the relationship between theory and methods? 2. What are the main stages of the research process? 3. Which methods are used in sociological research?	B Understanding social inequalities	1. What are the main patterns and trends in social inequality and difference? 2. How can patterns and trends in social inequality and difference be explained?
*Synoptic				

AS Level Sociology Specification (Draft)

01 Section A: Introducing socialisation, culture and identity	
Key Question	Content
1. What is culture?	<p>The relative nature of culture, norms and values.</p> <p>Types of culture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- subculture- high culture- popular culture- global culture- consumer culture- cultural diversity- cultural hybridity
01 Section A: Introducing socialisation, culture and identity	
Key Question	Content
2. What is socialisation?	<p>Definitions of primary and secondary socialisation, and how they link to agencies of socialisation while being unique for individuals.</p> <p>Agencies of socialisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- family- peer group- media- religion- education- workplace <p>Formal agencies of social control:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- criminal justice system- government <p>Informal agencies of social control:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- family- peer groups/subcultures- media- religion- education- workplace <p>The overlap of formal and informal social control on work, education and religion.</p>
01 Section A: Introducing socialisation, culture and identity	
Key Question	Content
3. What is identity?	<p>How identities are created and can change.</p> <p>Aspects of identity and the associated cultural characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- ethnicity- gender (including non-binary and trans identity)- social class- sexuality- age- disability <p>Hybrid identities and how identity can be fluid.</p>

01 Section B: Option 1 - Families and Relationships	
Key Question	Content
1. How are family life and relationships changing?	<p>The diversity of family and household types in the contemporary UK including blood and marriage-based relationships as well as chosen relationships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- nuclear families- extended families- lone parent families- reconstituted families- same-sex families- non-family households- lone person households <p>Changing sociological understanding of family life and diversity in the contemporary UK (the last 30 years), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- emerging family types- trends in marriage, divorce and cohabitation- same sex relationships- demographic changes <p>Consider key demographic changes and the reasons for these:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- birth rate

AS Level Sociology Specification (Draft)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - family size - age at marriage - age of childbearing - ageing population <p>Theoretical perspectives, consensus versus conflict and structural debates on the role of the family and the desirability of the nuclear family in contemporary UK society:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - functionalism - New Right - Marxism - feminism - postmodernism
01	
Section B: Option 1 - Families and Relationships	
Key Question	Content
2. To what extent are roles and relationships within families and households changing?	<p>Roles and relationships in the family and how they are changing including the application of functionalist, Marxist and feminist theoretical approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - domestic division of labour including housework/paid domestic work - paid work (and working practices) - emotion work - childcare/caring for elderly relatives - the 'dark side' of the family - finances/decision making - power and control - the role of children, friends and extended family - the growth of child-centered families - the extension of childhood

01	
Section B: Option 2 - Youth subcultures	
Key Question	Content
1. How are youth subcultures formed? Why do they develop?	<p>Theoretical views of the role of youth culture and subcultures and how and why they are formed considering issues of consensus versus conflict, social order and control:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - functionalism - Marxism/neo-Marxism - feminism - postmodernism <p>Subcultures and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - social class - gender - ethnicity - hybridity

01	
Section B: Option 2 - Youth subcultures	
Key Question	Content
2. Why do some young people participate in deviant subcultures?	<p>Deviant subcultures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - delinquent subcultures - criminal subcultures - anti-school subcultures - urban music subcultures - female subcultures <p>Patterns within the last 30 years in sociological research and official statistics on youth subcultural deviance in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - social class - gender - ethnicity - location <p>Explanations for why some young people participate in deviant subcultures, including structural and social action theory as well as issues of gender and ethnic identity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - functionalism/New Right - Marxism/neo-Marxism - interactionism - feminism <p>The role of the media, contemporary folk devils, moral panics and youth deviance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - deviancy amplification - social/digital media influence

AS Level Sociology Specification (Draft)

01

Section B: Option 3 - Media

Key Question	Content
1. How are different social groups represented in the media?	<p>Evidence and explanations for the representation and effects of misrepresentations of the following groups in the media and how far these are changing in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ethnicity - gender (including non-binary and trans identity) - sexuality - social class - age <p>How these factors can overlap to produce distorted views.</p> <p>Theoretical views on media representations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marxism/neo-Marxism - pluralism - feminism - postmodernism

01

Section B: Option 3 - Media

Key Question	Content
2. What effect do the media have on audiences?	<p>Theoretical views of media effects, including hypodermic syringe, two step flow, cultural effects, uses and gratifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - direct - indirect - active audience <p>The role of the new media and the impact of social media:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - social change - deviancy amplification and the creation of moral panics

02

Section A: Research methods and researching social inequalities

Key Question	Content
1. What is the relationship between theory and methods?	<p>How social research is guided by theory.</p> <p>Positivism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - patterns - trends - objectivity - value freedom - quantitative data <p>Interpretivism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - meanings and experiences - Verstehen and empathy - rapport - subjectivity - researcher imposition and bias - reflexivity - qualitative data <p>Key research concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - validity - reliability - representativeness - generalisability

02

Section A: Research methods and researching social inequalities

Key Question	Content
2. What are the main stages of the research process?	<p>Key concepts in the research process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - factors influencing the choice of research topic including funding, the researcher and the funding body - factors influencing the choice of research methods - aims/hypothesis/research questions - primary / secondary data - operationalisation - pilot studies - data collection - longitudinal studies for qualitative and quantitative data - interpretation of data <p>Sampling process including the ethical, practical and theoretical factors influencing its choice and how this may lead to some groups being over/underrepresented.</p> <p>Sampling techniques and the advantages and disadvantages of each technique:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - random - systematic - stratified - snowball

AS Level Sociology Specification (Draft)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- volunteer- opportunity- quota <p>Access and gatekeeping.</p> <p>Consideration of ethics in the research process.</p>
02 Section A: Research methods and researching social inequalities	
Key Question	Content
3. Which methods are used in sociological research?	<p>Research methods in the context of social inequalities and the advantages and disadvantages of each:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- questionnaires- structured interviews- statistical data (official and non-official)- content analysis- observations (participant/nonparticipant/covert/overt)- unstructured interviews- semi-structured interviews- ethnography <p>Quantitative and qualitative data.</p> <p>Mixed methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- triangulation- methodological pluralism

02 Section B: Understanding social inequalities	
Key Question	Content
1. What are the main patterns and trends in social inequality and difference?	<p>Social inequality and difference, how they overlap and how they have changed in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- social class- gender <p>Evidence of social inequalities from a range of areas of social life including patterns and trends in relation to work and employment.</p>
02 Section B: Understanding social inequalities	
Key Question	Content
2. How can patterns and trends in social inequality and difference be explained?	<p>The main sociological explanations of social inequality and difference, how useful each theory is in explaining inequality and contemporary forms of inequality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- functionalism- Marxism- feminism