

Subject	Sociology A Level
Context	<p>Sociology is the study of the society in which we live. A major feature of sociology is the question of whether or not society is organised in a way which is fair. Some sociologists see society as being organised in a way which is generally fair to all, with individuals being given equal chances to succeed in life. However, other sociologists disagree with this view. They argue that there are inequalities which exist between people, meaning that not everyone has the same opportunities in life.</p>
Securing	<p>Read the information about the three sociological theories, functionalism, Marxism and Feminism. Then learn the key terms below which are linked to the theories. You could make flashcards or a Quizlet of the key words to help you learn them.</p> <p><u>Functionalism</u> Functionalism is a consensus theory. This means that they regard society as being based upon agreement, claiming that most people generally get along with each other because they have a shared understanding of society's rules and values. They also believe that societies like the UK are built upon something called meritocracy, which means that all people are given the same opportunities and that how successful we are is dependent on our personal efforts. When it comes to inequality, functionalists believe that a certain amount of inequality is inevitable but also necessary for society to function, as we require people to take on job roles of differing statuses.</p> <p><u>Marxism</u> Marxism is a conflict theory. This means that they regard society as being based upon social division and inequality. They focus specifically on the problem of social class inequality, which relates to divisions in wealth and power. In their view, societies such as the UK are unequal because of capitalism. Capitalism refers to the economic system, in which some individuals become very wealthy and powerful because they own businesses which make a lot of profit. However, in a capitalist system, very few people are able to access positions of wealth and power, with most people working on behalf of business owners for low pay in poor conditions. They disagree with functionalism that society is a meritocracy, arguing that some people are more likely to be rich and powerful because of the backgrounds that they are born into. Marxists want to end this inequality by removing the capitalist system and creating an equal society without any social classes.</p> <p><u>Feminism</u> Like Marxism, feminism is also a conflict theory. However, they believe that gender inequality is the most significant form of inequality in society. Feminists describe society as being patriarchal, meaning that it is male dominated. They note that men have more power than women across all walks of social life, including in the family, in the world of business and in politics. Leadership positions are typically held by men. Feminists want to remove patriarchy and create a society in which there are equal opportunities for women in all areas of society.</p>

	<p>Key words to learn:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consensus theory: a theory which sees members of society in agreement over society's rules and values. 2. Conflict theory: a theory which sees members of society in conflict due to inequalities in power and competing interests. 3. Functionalism: a consensus theory which sees society as working for the benefit of everyone. 4. Meritocracy: the idea that everyone in society is given the same opportunities to succeed 5. Marxism – a conflict theory which sees society as unequal because some people have more power and wealth than others 6. Capitalism – an economic system based on the creation of profit through the ownership of private businesses 7. Feminism – a conflict theory which sees society as unequal because men have more power than women 8. Patriarchy – the systems of male power which are used to disadvantage women in society
Processing	<p>Study the following websites below, each of which provides a further overview of the above theories. Then, produce a poster or leaflet which outlines the following details about each theory:</p> <p>Functionalism Functionalism – An Introduction – ReviseSociology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A brief introduction to Durkheim • A summary of his two key ideas (society shapes the individual; social solidarity) • A brief introduction to Parsons • A summary of his two key ideas (value consensus; organic analogy) <p>Marxism Marx: Key Ideas for AS Sociology – ReviseSociology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A brief introduction to Marx • A summary of his views on the two social class groups (bourgeoisie; proletariat) • A summary of his views on exploitation of the proletariat by the bourgeoisie <p>Feminism Feminist Theory: A Summary for A-Level Sociology – ReviseSociology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A summary of the basic introduction to feminism (their views on gender norms & patriarchy) • Select 2 points to summarise about radical feminism • Select 2 points to summarise about Marxist feminism • Select 2 points to summarise about liberal feminism <p>Posters which are especially creative & colourful will be used as displays in class!</p>
Exploring	<p>Study the following articles about inequality in the UK:</p> <p>Key facts about class inequality in the UK https://www.equalitytrust.org.uk/scale-economic-inequality-uk</p> <p>Key facts about ethnic inequality in the UK https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/latest-projects/race-report-statistics</p> <p>Key facts about gender inequality in the UK https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/is-britain-fairer-findings-factsheet-men-and-women.pdf</p>

Reviewing	Reflect on what you have learned through this work by doing the following: · 1). Note down 5 new things that you found most interesting. 2). What did you find most challenging and what did you feel most confident with? 3). Write down 3 questions that you would like to ask your teacher about the topic area(s) that you have been introduced to.
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