

# **PiXL Independence:**

## **Sociology - Student Booklet**

### **KS5**

#### **Core Topic: Theory and Methods**

Support for: Paper 1 – Q6 and Paper 3 – Q5 & Q6

#### **Contents:**

- I. Multiple Choice Questions – 10 credits
- II. Short Answer Questions – 10 credits per question
- III. Independent Research – 80 credits per questions
- IV. Academic Reading – 50 credits each
- V. Extended Exam Style Questions Part One – 60 credits each plus 20 additional credits for marking your own.
- VI. Extended Exam Style Questions Part Two – 100 credits each plus 20 additional credits for marking your own.
- VII. Mark Scheme for Extended Exam Style Questions Part One
- VIII. Mark Scheme for Extended Exam Style Questions Part Two

### i. Multiple Choice Questions

Answer the question below that explore the themes of this unit.

**10 credits.**

1. Parsons identifies two mechanisms for ensuring individuals conform to the value consensus of society, they are:
  - a. Socialisation and social control
  - b. Social norms and shared values
  - c. Repressive state apparatus and ideological state apparatus
  - d. Socialisation and citizenship
  
2. True/False - New Right sociologists believe that extensive state intervention, such as the welfare state, should be encouraged as it supports the workings of the economy.
  
3. Karl Marx believed that capitalism would 'sow the seeds of its own destruction' and create *class polarisation* – what does '*polarising the classes*' mean?
  - a. When people in society take on a class that is 'polar' opposite to the one they were born with – working class becomes upper class, upper class might become working class
  - b. When people in society are pushed to either end of the class spectrum, with nothing in the middle. Classes will disappear and be absorbed either into the bourgeoisie or the proletariat
  - c. When everyone in society take on one view/opinion and all agree on how society should be run – there is no class division
  
4. Antonio Gramsci and Louis Althusser are both seen as Neo-Marxists, but which of the following statements is also correct:
  - a. Gramsci is a Structural Marxist and Althusser a Humanist Marxist
  - b. Gramsci and Althusser are both Structural Marxists
  - c. Gramsci is a Humanist Marxist and Althusser a Structural Marxist
  - d. Gramsci and Althusser are both Humanist Marxists
  
5. Radical feminists offer a number of solutions to the problem of patriarchy, which require a sudden and drastic change to the way society is organised. Identify which list is correct:
  - a. Political lesbianism, segregation and unconsciousness-controlling
  - b. Political lesbianism, cultural change, legal reforms
  - c. Political lesbianism, equal pay and overthrowing capitalism
  - d. Political lesbianism, separatism and consciousness-raising

6. T/F – Symbolic Interactionism emerged out of Weber’s Social Attention Theory.
7. Ethnomethodologist Garfinkel, refers to the term ‘indexicality’ – what does this term mean?
  - a. Refers to the fact that meanings are always very clear and understood
  - b. Refers to the fact that meanings are always potentially unclear
  - c. Refers to the fact that meanings are ordered and well understood
  - d. Refers to the fact that we need an index to live our lives by
8. Postmodernists claim that contemporary western societies have moved from the modern to the postmodern. To understand this shift requires an understanding of modernity. Modernity is characterised by the following features:
  - a. The process of industrialisation, enlightenment, social class, nation states and distinct meta-narratives.
  - b. Globalisation, hyper-reality, fragmented lives, freedom and choice
  - c. Technological development, consumerism, risk society and reflexivity
9. Which type of sociologist view social policies, and in particular the welfare system as a form of ‘buy-off’ – meaning they don’t actually help those in need:
  - a. Functionalists
  - b. Feminists
  - c. Interactionists
  - d. Marxists
10. Popper argues that in order to be scientific you must test ideas and research using the ‘falsification principle’ – what does it mean to ‘falsify’?
  - a. Unable to prove a theory right or wrong
  - b. Proving a theory to be true/right not false
  - c. Proving a theory to be wrong/false not right
11. Kuhn argues that a science takes place within a paradigm – what does this mean?
  - a. A type of scientific triangle
  - b. A research method used to uncover the truth
  - c. A set of assumptions, principles, methods and techniques

12. The value freedom debate is between those who believe that value free sociology is possible and desirable versus those who believe it is not possible and not desirable. Which is correct?
- a. Positivists believe that value free sociology is not possible or desirable and Interpretivists believe value free sociology is possible and desirable
  - b. Both interpretivists and positivists believe that value free sociology is not possible or desirable
  - c. Interpretivists believe that value free sociology is not possible or desirable and positivists believe value free sociology is possible and desirable
  - d. Both interpretivists and positivists believe value free sociology is possible and desirable
13. T/F - Durkheim argued that social facts should be treated like things. Things (objects) can be looked at, examined and manipulated.
14. The British Sociological Association (BSA) lays down strict guidelines which all sociological research in this country must abide by. Which of the following is NOT an ethical guideline?
- a. Do not exploit
  - b. Confidentiality
  - c. Right to withdraw
  - d. Competency

## ii. Short Answer Questions

*Short answer questions are a great way to test your knowledge and understanding (AO1) of a topic. This type of question also appears throughout AS and A Level Sociology exam papers. The command word for these questions is always 'Outline'.*

- AS Research Methods Paper 2 – 'Outline two ....'
- A Level papers do not have short questions for theory and methods however, they do for Education and Crime and Deviance, the exam skill you practise here is still relevant and important.

**Each question answered is worth 10 credits. There are a further 10 credits available for self-assessment marking and adding to your answers if needed.**

### **Outline two (4 marks)**

1. Outline two functionalist concepts. (4 marks)
2. Outline two different branches of feminism. (4 marks)
3. Outline two micro-approaches in sociology. (4 marks)
4. Outline two characteristics of postmodern society. (4 marks)
5. Outline two external criticisms of functionalism. (4 marks)
6. Outline two weaknesses of liberal feminism. (4 marks)
7. Outline two New Right concepts/assumptions. (4 marks)
8. Outline two criticisms of Classical Marxism. (4 marks)
9. Outline two Neo-Marxist approaches. (4 marks)
10. Outline two Classical Marxist concepts. (4 marks)

### iii. Hyperlinks for Independent Research

Each research task has a strong link to the unit of theory and methods, but may also focus on wider sociological themes, remember to try and view sociology as a holistically as possible.

**80 credits for each completed task.**

#### 1. **How technology disrupted the truth**

Read the article and answer the question below.

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2016/jul/12/how-technology-disrupted-the-truth>

**Question:** Highlight the postmodernist themes this article discusses; what are the consequences for society and how can we try and improve our situation?

**To help:** Read through this overview of postmodernism to support the drawing out of themes: <http://www.sociologyguide.com/post-modernism/>

#### 2. **At last men are joining our conversation about toxic masculinity**

Read the article below and answer the questions below.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/sep/06/men-joining-feminist-conversation-toxic-masculinity-chris-hemmings-robert-webb>

**Question:** What is 'toxic masculinity'? Do you agree that it is a pressing problem? How might the different branches of feminists view society's realisation that patriarchy also hurts men as well as women?

#### 3. **Labour is right—Karl Marx has a lot to teach today's politicians**

Read the article and answer the question.

<https://www.economist.com/news/britain/21721916-shadow-chancellors-comment-provoked-scorn-yet-marx-becomes-more-relevant-day-labour>

**Question:** Summarise the article in no more than ten points. Is Marxism still relevant today?

#### 4. **Symbolic Interactionism - video**

Watch the video and complete the task.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jFQIIM8IRZU>

**Task:** Summarise the main points discussed in the video.

#### 5. **The Major Theoretical Perspectives of Sociology - An Overview of Four Key Perspectives**

Read the article and complete the task.

<https://www.thoughtco.com/theoretical-perspectives-3026716>

**Tasks:** summarise the four key perspectives and how they are used in society

## 6. The Five Main Issues Facing Modern Feminism

Read the article and complete the task.

<https://www.newstatesman.com/v-spot/2013/05/five-main-issues-facing-modern-feminism>

**Task:** Summarise the 5 main issues and comment on whether you think these are still relevant.

## 7. World Risk Society

Read the article and complete the task.

<http://sociology.wikifoundry.com/page/Ulrich+Beck>

**Task:** summarise the key points of Beck's notion of a risk society into 10 bullet points.

## 8. An overview of labelling theory

Read the article and complete the task.

<https://www.thoughtco.com/labeling-theory-3026627>

**Tasks:** summarise the article into 10 bullet points.

## 9. The 10 most critical problems in the world, according to millennials

Read the article and complete the task.

<http://uk.businessinsider.com/world-economic-forum-world-biggest-problems-concerning-millennials-2016-8/#5-government-accountability-and-transparency-and-corruption-217-6>

**Task:**

- 1) Do you agree with the list of problems – would you add any?
- 2) How can sociology help to solve these problems?

#### iv. Recommended Academic Reading for Research Methods

**50 credits for each chapter summary completed (either 300 – 500 words or a one page bullet-point summary)**

**150 credits for book summaries (either 700-1000 words or a two page bullet-point summary)**

**Title:** *AQA A Level Sociology Book Two*

**Author(s):** Rob Webb, Hal Westergaard, Keith Trobe, Annie Townend

**Description:** Written by experienced team of authors, it provides students with everything they need to know to success in their sociology A level studies.

**Recommended reading:** Chapter on Sociological Theory

**Title:** *Sociology for AQA Volume 2*

**Author:** Ken Browne

**Description:** The book's combination of sociological rigour and accessibility remains one of its hallmarks. Key sociological terms are systematically highlighted throughout the text and are included in a thorough glossary, with thoughtful questions and activities at important points within the chapters to develop and test students' understanding further. Pitched at the right level for the new AQA Sociology specification, the book provides the tools necessary to help students and encourage them to take their study of Sociology further.

**Recommended reading:** Chapter on Sociological Theory

**Title:** *Modern Social Theory: An introduction*

**Author:** Austin Harrington

**Description:** It is an ideal book for students of sociology. This book provides a comprehensive introduction to the core topics, theories and debates in modern social theory.

**Recommended reading:** the whole book – or pick a chapter focused on the approach you want to understand further



**Title:** *Postmodernism*

**Author:** Glen Ward

**Description:** Postmodernism embodies the idea that there are no new ideas to be invented - everything is borrowed from previous times and we live in a postmodern age. This is an introduction to the philosophy behind postmodernism for students or anyone who wishes to know more

**Recommended reading:** the whole book!

**Title:** *Youth in Crisis? 'Gangs', Territoriality and Violence*

**Editor:** Kate Pickett and Richard Wilkinson

**Description:** The book highlights the "pernicious effects that inequality has on societies: eroding trust, increasing anxiety and illness, (and) encouraging excessive consumption". It shows that for each of eleven different health and social problems: physical health, mental health, drug abuse, education, imprisonment, obesity, social mobility, trust and community life, violence, teenage pregnancies, and child well-being, outcomes are significantly worse in more unequal rich countries.

**Recommended reading:** the whole book!

**Title:** *Living Dolls: The Return of Sexism*

**Author:** Natasha Walter

**Description** Drawing on a wealth of research and personal interviews, Natasha Walter, author of the ground-breaking THE NEW FEMINISM and one of Britain's most incisive cultural commentators, gives us a straight-talking, passionate and important book that makes us look afresh at women and girls, at sexism and femininity today.

**Recommended reading:** the whole book!

**Title:** *Haralambos and Holborn - Sociology Themes and Perspectives [Eighth edition]*

**Authors:** Michael Haralambos, Martin Holborn

**Description:** An excellent extensive textbook for sociology courses in schools, colleges and higher education. A great starting point for anyone wanting to do some extra reading with clear headings and guidance.

**Recommended reading:** Chapter on sociological theory

***Extension reading for the whole of sociology:***

**Title:** *The Sociology Book (Big Ideas)*

**Author(s):** Alexandra Beeden and Miezán Van Zyl

**Description:** It is a fantastic book to engage anyone and everyone in sociology! It includes great visuals.

**Recommended reading:** All of it!

### **v. Extended Exam Questions Part One**

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods – x1 10 marker on Theory and Methods

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods - x1 10 marker and x1 20 marker on Theory and Methods

**60 credits for each 10 mark question (plus 20 for marking and reviewing)**

**Practise 10 mark exam questions on Theory and Methods:**

1. Outline and explain two criticisms of the Functionalist view of society. (10)
2. Outline and explain two feminist views of the position of women in contemporary society. (10)
3. Outline and explain two reasons why sociologists may not influence government policy. (10)
4. Outline and explain two reasons why values may enter sociological research. (10)
5. Outline and explain two reasons why society cannot be and should not be studied scientifically. (10)

**vi. Extended Exam Questions Part Two**

**100 credits for each 20 mark question (plus 20 for marking and reviewing)**

**Practice 20 mark exam questions on Theory and Methods**

**Item C**

Postmodern society is defined as a fragmented, media saturated global village where individuals frequently define themselves by what they consume. Postmodernists see society today, as a completely different environment compared to modern society. However, some sociologists believe we are in late or high modernity not postmodernity.

1. Applying material from **Item C** and your knowledge, evaluate the view that modern society has changed but has not yet been replaced by a postmodern society. (20)

**Item C**

Marxists see all societies as divided into two classes, one of which exploits the labour of the other. In a modern capitalist society, the capitalist class who own the means of production exploit the working class. Functionalists, who see society as based on harmony and consensus, argue that Marxism is misleading because of its negative portrayal of the status quo and failure to highlight various areas of social progress.

2. Applying material from **Item C** and your knowledge, evaluate the usefulness of Marxist approaches in understanding society. (20)

**Item C**

Functionalism is a macro, structural theory which focuses on the needs of the social system as a whole. It is also a consensus theory seeing society as based on agreement among its members about values, goals and rules. However, Marxism critiques functionalism for its inability to explain conflict and change, while interactionist sociologists criticise it for being determinist.

3. Applying material from **item C** and your knowledge, evaluate the claim that functionalism understates both the extent of conflict in society and the ability of social actors to create society through interaction (20)

**Item C**

Feminism is based on the idea of conflict. This is due to society being patriarchal, leading to women being in a subordinate position to men in all areas. Feminists also believe that mainstream sociology has been traditionally malestream and therefore ignored the role of women. Changes in women's position in society varies according to the type of feminist approach, some see patriarchy as in terminal decline but others still see it as very powerful.

4. Applying material from **item C** and your knowledge, evaluate the contribution of different feminist theories to an understanding of society (20)

**Item C**

Action theories, take a micro approach focusing on how the actions and interactions of individuals create society. Rather than believing that an individual's behaviour is determined by structural factors, they believe that individuals have free will and choice over their actions. Society is not naturally occurring or objective, but is socially constructed by the individuals within society, including powerful figures of social control e.g. politicians.

5. Applying material from **item C** and your knowledge, evaluate the contribution of Action Approach's to our understanding of social behaviour (20)

### vii. Mark Scheme for Extended Exam Style Questions Part One

For each question give yourself a mark out of 10, identify a strength and a target for future improvement.

Marks	Level descriptors
8-10	Answers in this band will show very good knowledge and understanding of two areas in sociological research that the question asks about. There will be two applications of relevant material. There will be appropriate analysis.
4-7	Answers in this band will show a reasonable to good knowledge and understanding of two areas in sociological research that the question asks about There will be one or two applications of relevant material. There will be some basic analysis.
1-3	Answers in this band will show limited knowledge and little or no understanding of the question or the material. There will be limited focus on the question. There will be limited or no analysis.
0	No relevant points.

**Q1. Mark out of 10:**

**Strength:**

**Target:**

**Q2. Mark out of 10:**

**Strength:**

**Target:**

**Q3. Mark out of 10:**

**Strength:**

**Target:**

**Q4. Mark out of 10:**

**Strength:**

**Target:**

**Q5. Mark out of 10:**

**Strength:**

**Target:**

### viii. Mark Scheme for Extended Exam Style Questions Part Two

For each question give yourself a mark out of 20, identify a strength and a target for future improvement.

Marks	Level descriptors
17-20	<p>Answers in this band will show sound, conceptually detailed knowledge of a range of relevant material. Sophisticated understanding of the question and of the presented material will be shown.</p> <p>Appropriate material will be applied accurately and with sensitivity to the issues raised by the question.</p> <p>Analysis and evaluation will be explicit and relevant. Evaluation may be developed. Analysis will show clear explanation. Appropriate conclusions will be drawn.</p>
13-16	<p>Answers in this band will show accurate, broad or deep but incomplete knowledge. Understands a number of significant aspects of the question; good understanding of the presented material.</p> <p>Application of material is largely explicitly relevant to the question, though some material may be inadequately focused.</p> <p>Some limited explicit evaluation, and/or some appropriate analysis, e.g. clear explanations of some of the presented material.</p>
9-12	<p>Answers in this band will show largely accurate knowledge but limited range and depth, e.g. broadly accurate, if basic. Understands some limited but significant aspects of the question; superficial understanding of the presented material.</p> <p>Applying listed material from the general topic area but with limited regard for its relevance to the issues raised by the question, or applying a narrow range of more relevant material.</p> <p>Evaluation will take the form of juxtaposition of competing positions or to one or two isolated stated points. Analysis will be limited, with answers tending towards the descriptive.</p>
5-8	<p>Answers in this band will show limited undeveloped knowledge, e.g. two or three insubstantial points. Understands only limited aspects of the question; simplistic understanding of the presented material.</p> <p>Limited application of suitable material, and/or material often at a tangent to the demands of the question, with limited reference to the question set.</p> <p>Very limited or no evaluation. Attempts at analysis, if any, are thin and disjointed.</p>
1-4	<p>Answers in this band will show very limited knowledge, e.g. one or two very insubstantial points about research methods in general. Very little/no understanding of the question and of the presented material.</p> <p>Significant errors and/or omissions in application of material.</p> <p>No analysis or evaluation.</p>
0	No relevant points.



**Q1.**

**Mark out of 20:**

**Strength:**

**Target:**

**Q2.**

**Mark out of 20:**

**Strength:**

**Target:**

**Q3.**

**Mark out of 20:**

**Strength:**

**Target:**

**Q4.**

**Mark out of 20:**

**Strength:**

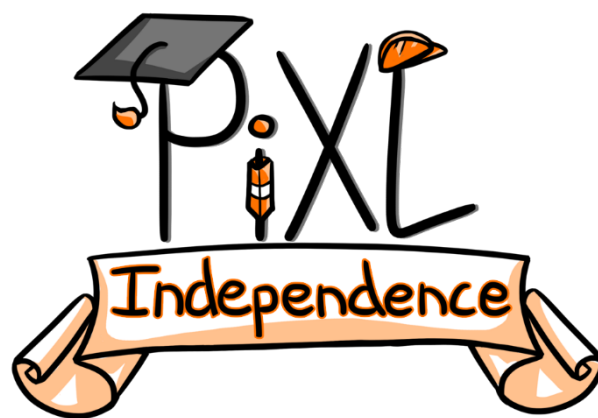
**Target:**

**Q5.**

**Mark out of 20:**

**Strength:**

**Target:**



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