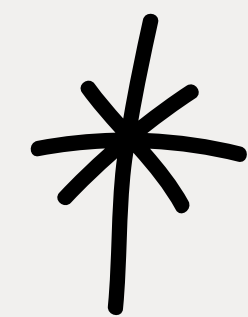


# GCSE: The sociological approach



## SUBTOPICS

Debates within sociology

Sociological perspectives

Sociological research

Key sociological concepts

## DEBATES WITHIN SOCIOLOGY

- Consensus vs conflict
- Changing ideas over time
- Contemporary social issues

## SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES

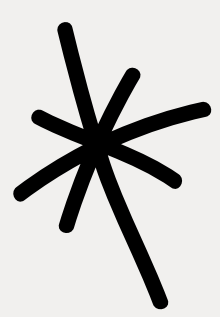
- Key sociological perspectives on social structures, social processes and social issues, including:
  - feminism
  - functionalism
  - interactionism
  - Marxism
- Key classical sociologists including:
  - Durkheim
  - Marx
  - Weber
- The interrelationship between the core areas of sociology e.g. comparison of approaches.

## SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH

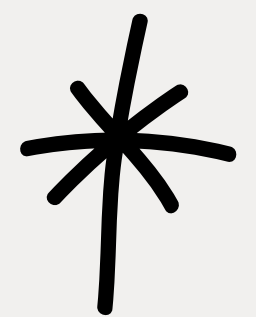
- How to use sociological research methods.
- How sociological research methods are applied in specific contexts, including:
  - families
  - education
  - crime and deviance
  - social stratification

## KEY SOCIOLOGICAL CONCEPTS

- Key sociological terms and concepts concerned with social structures, social processes and social issues and the explanation of social phenomena including:
  - society
  - socialisation
  - norms
  - values
  - roles
  - labelling
  - discrimination
  - power
  - authority



# GCSE topic: Research methods



## SUBTOPICS

Research design

Different types of data

Qualitative and quantitative methods

Interpretation of data

Practical and ethical issues

### RESEARCH DESIGN

- The establishment of appropriate aims and relevant hypotheses.
- The use of pilot studies.
- The selection and use of appropriate sampling methods.
- The analysis of data.

### DIFFERENT TYPES OF DATA

- Describe and assess the usefulness of different types of data, such as:
  - Qualitative data
  - Quantitative data
  - Official and non-official statistics
  - Primary sources of data
  - Secondary sources of data

### QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE METHODS

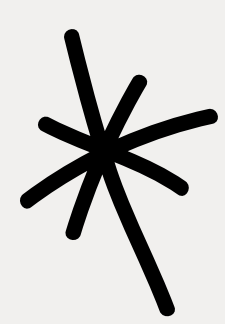
- Describe and explain methods, including assessing the value, the application and the strengths and weaknesses of the chosen method. Methods include:
  - Questionnaires
  - Interviews (structured, unstructured)
  - Observations (overt, covert, participant, non-participant)
  - Case study
  - Content analysis
  - Longitudinal study
  - Official statistics
  - Census
  - Attitude survey
  - Mixed methods
  - Triangulation
  - Ethnography

### INTERPRETATION OF DATA

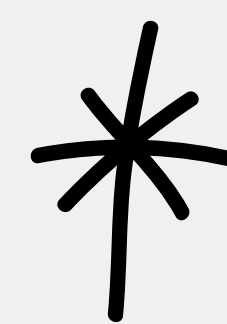
- Interpret graphs, diagrams, charts and tables to discern patterns and trends in statistical data

### PRACTICAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES

- Practical issues including:
  - Time
  - Cost
  - Access
- Ethical issues including:
  - Confidentiality
  - Informed consent
  - Harm to participants
- How to address ethical issues in research



# GCSE: Topic 1: The family



## SUBTOPICS

Functions of the family

Family forms

Conjugal role relationships

Changing relationships in the family

Criticisms of the family

Divorce

## FUNCTIONS OF THE FAMILY

- Functionalist view of the family
- Marxist view of the family
- Feminist view of the family (Liberal, radical, and Marxist)
- Comparison of sociological views of the family

Key theorist:  
-Parsons

- THEORISTS (NOT EXHAUSTIVE)**
- Murdock (functionalist)
  - Parsons (functionalist)
  - Zaretsky (Marxist)
  - Oakley (liberal feminist)
  - Delphy and Leonard (radical feminist)
  - Ansley (Marxist feminist)

## FAMILY FORMS

- Key definitions and types of family
- Alternatives to the family
- Family diversity
- Families in a global context
- Changes in family types and reasons
- Is the nuclear family still important?

Key theorist:  
-Rapoports

- THEORISTS (NOT EXHAUSTIVE)**
- Rapoports

## CONJUGAL ROLE RELATIONSHIPS

- Key definitions
- Comparison of conjugal role types
- Symmetrical family
- Sociological views on conjugal roles

Key theorist:  
-Oakley

- THEORISTS (NOT EXHAUSTIVE)**
- Willmott and Young
  - Oakley (feminist)
  - Duncombe and Marsden (feminist)
  - Edgell
  - Parsons (functionalist)
  - Zaretsky (Marxist)
  - Delphy and Leonard (feminist)

## CHANGING RELATIONSHIPS IN THE FAMILY

- Changes over time (preindustrial, industrialised, contemporary)
- Changing relationships within the family
- Sociological perspectives on changing relationships (functionalism, feminism and Marxism)
- The contemporary symmetrical family (Willmott and Young)

Key theorists:  
-Willmott and Young

- THEORISTS (NOT EXHAUSTIVE)**
- Silva
  - Palmer
  - Hockey and James
  - Willmott and Young

## CRITICISMS OF THE FAMILY

- General criticisms of the family
- Functionalist criticisms of the family
- Marxist criticisms of the family
- Feminist criticisms of the family

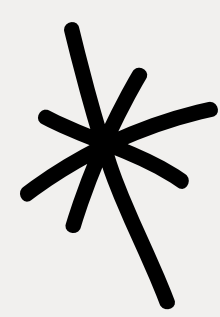
Key theorists:  
-Zaretsky  
-Delphy and Leonard

- THEORISTS (NOT EXHAUSTIVE)**
- Vogel and Bell (functionalist)
  - Zaretsky (Marxist)
  - Delphy and Leonard (feminist)

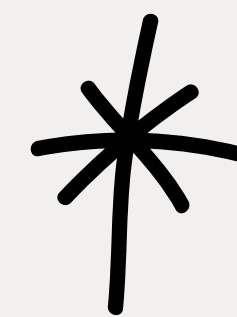
## DIVORCE

- Patterns of divorce
- Reasons for rise in divorce
- Consequences of divorce for family members
- Sociological views on divorce (functionalism, Marxism, feminism)

- THEORISTS (NOT EXHAUSTIVE)**
- Dennis
  - Fletcher (functionalist)
  - Zaretsky (Marxist)
  - Hart (Marxist)
  - Millett (feminist)



# GCSE: Topic 2: Education



## SUBTOPICS

Roles and functions of education

The relationship between education and capitalism

Educational achievement

Processes within schools

## ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF EDUCATION

- Different types of school.
- Alternatives to school
- Functionalist view of the role of education
- Feminist view of the role of education

Key theorist:  
-Durkheim  
-Parsons

**THEORISTS (NOT EXHAUSTIVE)**

- Durkheim
- Parsons
- Illich
- Wilkinson
- Sewell
- Francis and Skelton
- Archer
- Sharpe
- Fuller
- Mitsos and Browne

## THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EDUCATION AND CAPITALISM

- Marxist view on the role of education
- The correspondence principle (Bowles and Gintis)
- Different sociological views on the correspondence principle

Key theorist:  
-Bowles and Gintis

**THEORISTS (NOT EXHAUSTIVE)**

- Bowles and Gintis
- Willis

## EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

- Class inequality in education
  - Evidence of patterns - statistics
  - Internal and external factors
  - Sociological viewpoints e.g functionalist, Marxist and feminist
- Gender inequality in education
  - Evidence of patterns - statistics inc subject choice
  - Internal and external factors
  - Sociological viewpoints e.g functionalist, Marxist and feminist
- Ethnic inequality in education
  - Evidence of patterns - statistics
  - Internal and external factors
  - Sociological viewpoints e.g functionalist, Marxist and feminist

Key theorist:  
-Halsey  
-Ball and Gerwitz

**THEORISTS (NOT EXHAUSTIVE)**

• Cooper and Stewart	• Sewell
• Bourdieu	• Mitsos and Browne
• Ball and Gerwitz	• Francis
• Berstein	• Murphy and Elwood
• Becker	• Kelly
• Ball	• Archer
• Willis	• Swann
• Wilkinson	• Murray
• McRobbie	• Bereiter and Engelmann
• Sharpe	• Gilborn and Youdell
• Mac and Ghail	• Smith and Tomlinson

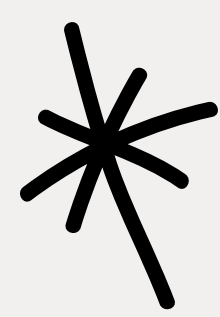
## PROCESSES WITHIN SCHOOLS

- Streaming, setting and mixed ability teaching
  - Description
  - Impact on class, gender and ethnicity
  - Sociological viewpoints
- Labelling and the self-fulfilling prophecy
  - Description
  - Impact on class, gender and ethnicity
  - Sociological viewpoints

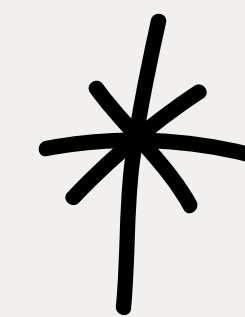
Key theorist:  
-Ball  
-Willis

**THEORISTS (NOT EXHAUSTIVE)**

- Ball
- Willis
- Rosenthal and Jacobson
- Becker
- Francis
- Gilborn and Youdell



# GCSE topic: Crime



## SUBTOPICS

Sociological theories relating to crime and deviance

Patterns of crime

Data and crime

Debates about crime and deviance

## SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES RELATING TO CRIME AND DEVIANCE

- Introductory concepts crime and deviance
- Functionalist theories of crime
- Marxist theories of crime
- Feminist theories of crime
- Interactionist theories of crime
- Comparison of approaches
- Social control

Key theorist:  
-Merton  
-Becker  
-Heidensohn

### THEORISTS (NOT EXHAUSTIVE)

- Durkheim (functionalism)
- Merton (functionalism)
- Cohen (functionalism)
- Marx (Marxism)
- Heidensohn (feminism)
- Becker (interactionism)

## PATTERNS OF CRIME

- Social class and crime
  - Patterns of crime
  - Theories to explain them
- Gender and crime
  - Patterns of crime
  - Theories to explain them
- Age and crime
  - Patterns of crime
  - Theories to explain them
- Ethnicity and crime
  - Patterns of crime
  - Theories to explain them

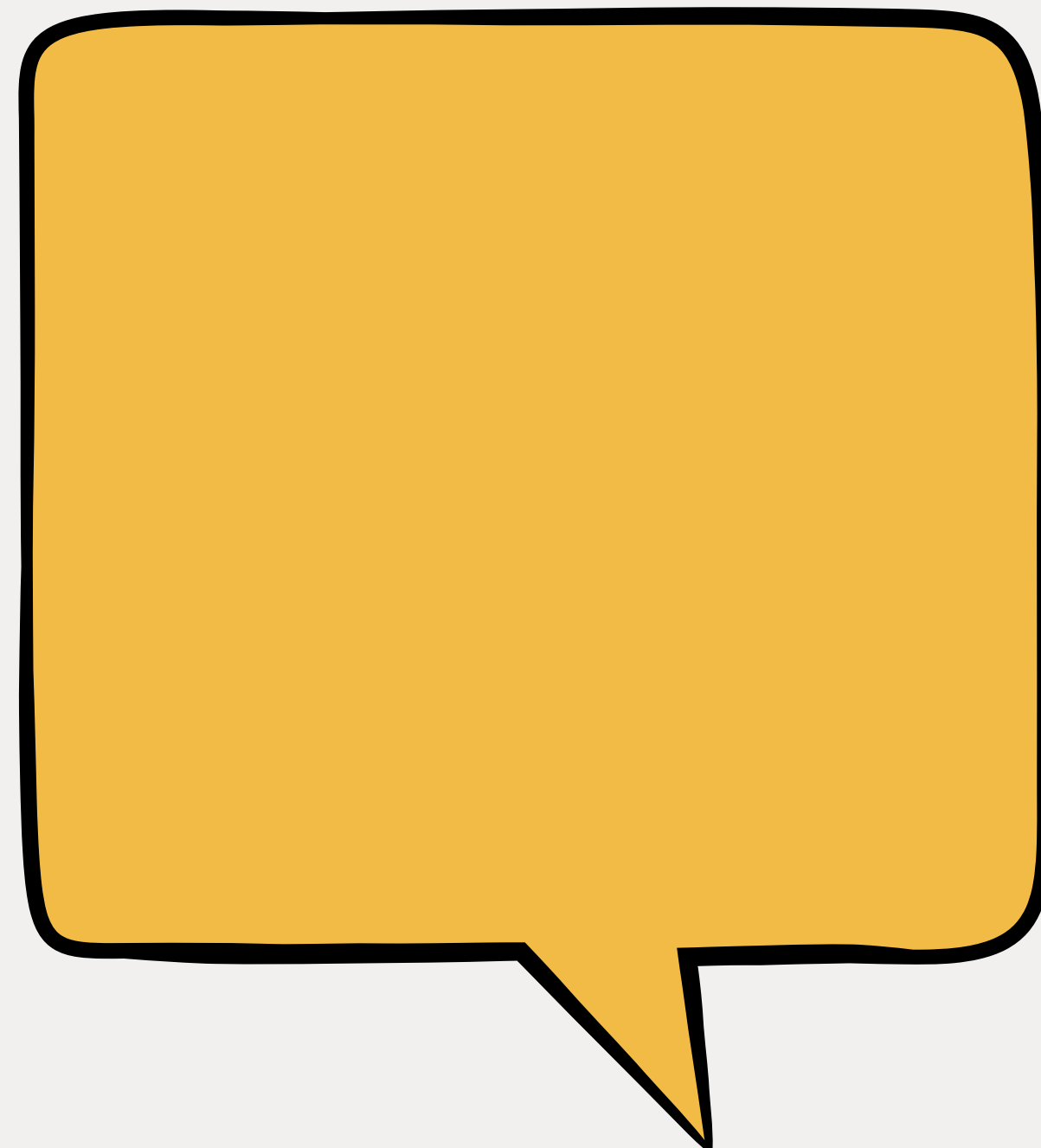
Key theorist:  
-Cohen  
-Carlen

### THEORISTS (NOT EXHAUSTIVE)

- Murray
- Merton
- Cohen
- Gordon
- Becker
- Chambliss
- McRobbie
- Heidensohn
- Pollack
- Adler
- Carlen
- Miller
- Brake
- Matza
- Katz and Lyng
- Gilroy
- Hall
- Phillips and Bowling

## DATA AND CRIME

- Official crime statistics
- Victim surveys
- Self report studies
- Sociological perspectives on data and crime
- The dark figure of crime

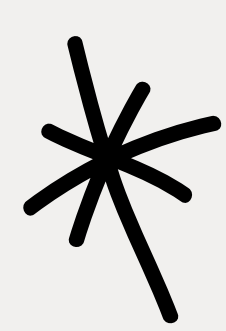


## DEBATES ABOUT CRIME AND DEVIANCE

- Should people be sent to prison for their crimes, or should they be rehabilitated?
- Should violent criminals get life in prison?
- Should young people be punished for their crimes, or rehabilitated?
- Are the media biased in their presentation of crime?
- Does the media create crime in society?

### THEORISTS (NOT EXHAUSTIVE)

- Reiner
- Matza
- Newburn
- Ditton and Duffy
- Cohen
- Hall
- Anderson



# GCSE: Topic 4: Social Stratification



## SUBTOPICS

Sociological theories of social stratification

Socio-economic class

Life chances

Poverty as a social issue

Power and authority and power relationships

## SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES OF SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

- Introductory concepts for social stratification
- Functionalist view of social stratification
- Marxist view of social stratification
- Feminist view of social stratification

Key theorist:  
-Davis and Moore

**THEORISTS (NOT EXHAUSTIVE)**

- Davis and Moore
- Marx
- Skeggs

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC CLASS

- Types and measurement of socio-economic class.
- Marxist view on class.
- Weber view on class
- Feminist view on class

Key theorist:  
-Marx  
-Weber

**THEORISTS (NOT EXHAUSTIVE)**

- Marx
- Weber
- Murray

## LIFE CHANCES

- Introduction to life chances
- Life chances in relation to:
  - Social class
  - Gender
  - Ethnicity
  - Sexuality
  - Age
  - Disability
- Sociological theories of life chances e.g. functionalism, Marxism and feminism
- Devine and the affluent worker

Key theorist:  
-Devine

**THEORISTS (NOT EXHAUSTIVE)**

- Devine
- Goldthorpe

## POVERTY AS A SOCIAL ISSUE

- Measurement of poverty
- Sociological explanations of poverty e.g. functionalism, Marxism and feminism
- Government action against poverty e.g. the welfare state
- Impact of globalisation
- Relative deprivation
- The underclass

Key theorist:  
-Townsend  
-Murray

**THEORISTS (NOT EXHAUSTIVE)**

- Rowntree
- Townsend
- Murray
- Pahl
- Beveridge (report)

## POWER AND AUTHORITY AND POWER RELATIONSHIPS

- Forms of power
- Sociological explanations of power e.g. functionalism, Marxism and feminism
- Weber and power
- Power relationships
- Sociological explanations of power relationships e.g. e.g. functionalism, Marxism and feminism
- Patriarchy

Key theorist:  
-Weber  
-Walby

**THEORISTS (NOT EXHAUSTIVE)**

- Weber
- Miliband
- Walby