

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>The sociological perspective</b>	
	The study of society	1
	Sociology and the social sciences	2
	Sociology and social policy	3
	Sociology and science	7
	Is science scientific?	9
	Values and sociologists	11
	Sociological perspectives	13
	Functionalism	14
	Marxism	16
	Weberianism	20
	Symbolic interactionism	22
	Ethnomethodology	23
	Feminism	24
	Post-modernism	25
	Values, norms, roles and status	30
	Socialisation	32
	Socialisation in childhood	36
	The construction of social identities	37
	Social order and control	42
	Culture	45
	Culture and subculture	49
<b>2</b>	<b>Sociological methods</b>	
	Types of data	54
	Research methods	55
	The stages of research design	61
	Theory and methods	62
	Key concepts in research	64
	Methodological pluralism and methodological purism	65
<b>3</b>	<b>Social stratification and differentiation</b>	
	Dimensions of inequality	67
	Elements of social stratification	67
	Social versus natural inequality	69
	Systems of stratification	70
	Theories of social class	71
	Functionalist theories of stratification	71
	The Marxist view	73
	The Weberian view	74
	Measuring social class	76
	Social mobility	77
	Dimensions of class	81
	The ruling class	81
	The working class	82
	The middle class	85
	The underclass	87
	New directions in class analysis	89
	The death of class?	91

<b>Sex and gender</b>	<b>92</b>
Explaining gender divisions	93
<b>Race and ethnicity</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>Stratification and age</b>	<b>98</b>
Youth	98
Old age	99

<b>4</b>	<b>Health, welfare and poverty</b>	
	<b>The social construction of health</b>	<b>101</b>
	<b>Inequalities in health</b>	<b>102</b>
	Health and social class	102
	Health and region	104
	Health and gender	105
	Health and ethnicity	106
	<b>Doctors and patients</b>	<b>107</b>
	<b>Mental health</b>	<b>109</b>
	<b>Poverty and the Welfare State</b>	<b>110</b>
	<b>The sociology of poverty</b>	<b>113</b>
	<b>The measurement of poverty</b>	<b>114</b>
	<b>Why does poverty exist?</b>	<b>116</b>
	<b>Perspectives on the Welfare State</b>	<b>118</b>

<b>5</b>	<b>The family</b>	
	<b>Sociology and the family</b>	<b>120</b>
	<b>Household and family types</b>	<b>120</b>
	<b>Functionalism and the family</b>	<b>121</b>
	<b>Alternatives to the family</b>	<b>126</b>
	<b>Marxism, feminism and the family</b>	<b>126</b>
	<b>The family and conflict</b>	<b>130</b>
	<b>Industrialisation and the changing structure of the family</b>	<b>132</b>
	<b>Power and labour in the family</b>	<b>136</b>
	<b>The family and social policy</b>	<b>139</b>
	<b>The family today</b>	<b>141</b>
	<b>Do marriage and family life have a future?</b>	<b>143</b>

<b>6</b>	<b>Education</b>	
	<b>What is education?</b>	<b>144</b>
	<b>Why do we go to school?</b>	<b>145</b>
	Functionalist explanations	145
	Marxist explanations	146
	<b>The State and education in Britain</b>	<b>149</b>
	<b>The new vocationalism: the future of education?</b>	<b>150</b>
	<b>Differential educational achievement</b>	<b>151</b>
	<b>Explanations for differential educational achievement</b>	<b>153</b>
	Intelligence	153
	The home	155
	Language codes	156
	Cultural deprivation	157
	The school and the classroom	158
	The hidden curriculum	159
	Knowledge and status	161
	Post-modernist perspectives on education	161
	Counter culture	162
	Gender	164
	Ethnicity	168

<b>7</b>	<b>Religion</b>	
	Problems of definition	170
	Religious movements	171
	Theoretical perspectives on religion	174
	Functionalism	174
	Marxism	176
	Weber	176
	Church, denomination and sect	177
	Religion and stratification	180
	Secularisation	181
	A secular world?	184
	Religion, fundamentalism, modernity and post-modernity	186
	Fundamentalism	187
<b>8</b>	<b>Crime and deviance</b>	
	Defining crime and deviance	189
	Crime statistics	190
	Women and crime	193
	Ethnicity and crime	195
	White-collar crime	196
	Theories of crime and deviance	198
	Functionalist theories	201
	Marxism and crime	205
	Interactionism	207
	Control theory	210
	More recent theories of crime	211
	Post-modernist perspective	215
	Suicide	216
	Murder	220
<b>9</b>	<b>Work, organisations and leisure</b>	
	Problems of definition	222
	The founding fathers and industrialisation	223
	The occupational structure	224
	Occupations and the labour market	224
	Patterns and trends in the occupational structure	226
	Women and work	228
	Ethnicity and work	231
	Age	233
	The management and organisation of work	233
	The post-industrial society thesis	233
	The labour process and the control of labour	234
	Bureaucracy and changing organisational cultures	238
	Modernism and post-modernism	241
	Technological change and work	241
	Industrial relations and conflict	243
	The experience of work	246
	Work satisfaction and orientation	246
	Blauner	246
	Goldthorpe and Lockwood	249
	Mallet	249
	Gallie	249
	Beynon	250
	The human relations response	251

<b>Trade unions and professional associations</b>	<b>252</b>
Trade unions	253
Professional associations	255
<b>Work and non-work</b>	<b>256</b>
Unemployment	256
Measurement of unemployment	256
Causes of unemployment	259
The effects of unemployment	261
<b>Leisure</b>	<b>263</b>
Perspectives on leisure	263
The changing pattern of leisure activities	264
Unemployment and leisure	266

## 10

### Mass media

<b>Social patterns in listening, viewing and reading</b>	<b>267</b>
<b>Pluralist, Marxist and post-modernist theories of the nature and role of the mass media</b>	<b>269</b>
The pluralist perspective	269
Marxist perspectives	270
Post-modernism	273
<b>Ownership and control of the mass media</b>	<b>273</b>
<b>The mass media, the State and the political process</b>	<b>275</b>
<b>Representations of gender, disability, age and ethnicity</b>	<b>280</b>
<b>The effects and uses of the mass media</b>	<b>283</b>
<b>The mass media, violence and the amplification of deviance</b>	<b>287</b>
<b>Issues in researching the mass media</b>	<b>290</b>

## 11

### Politics and power

<b>Power and authority</b>	<b>292</b>
<b>Theories of power</b>	<b>293</b>
Functionalism	293
Marxism	294
Elitism	296
Pluralism	298
<b>What is the State?</b>	<b>299</b>
<b>Who controls the State?</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Political parties and ideology</b>	<b>303</b>
The Conservative Party	304
The Labour Party	304
The Liberal Democrats	305
<b>Voting behaviour</b>	<b>305</b>
<b>Past examination questions</b>	<b>310</b>
<b>Further reading</b>	<b>314</b>
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>317</b>
<b>Glossary</b>	<b>331</b>
<b>Index</b>	<b>340</b>