

OxfordAQA

International GCSE

Sociology (9292)

Subject specific vocabulary

Used in our International GCSE exams

Families

Abuse

Behaviour within families or relationships that cause harm, fear or control.

Age structure

the number of people in different age groups within a population.

Ageing population

a population with a growing proportion of older people.

Arranged marriage

a marriage where families play a significant role in choosing a partner.

Authority

the power to make decisions and expect others to obey them within family life.

Beanpole family

a family structure with several generations but few members in each generation.

Birth rate

the number of live births in a population over a period of time.

Boomerang family

a family where an adult child returns to live with their parents after a period of independence.

Capitalism

an economic system based on private ownership and profit.

Child-centred family

a family that prioritises children's needs and interests.

Childfree couple

adults who choose not to have children.

Childhood

the social stage of life linked to being a child.

Child mortality

the number of deaths of children at a young age.

Children's home

a residential setting where children are cared for by professional staff.

Coercive control

ongoing patterns of control and restriction used to dominate another person.

Commune

a group of people living together who share resources and responsibilities, often based on shared values.

Constraint

limits on choice caused by social economic or structural factors.

Cultural variation

differences in beliefs, practices and social organisation between societies.

Death rate

the number of deaths in a population over a period of time.

Decision-making

the process of choosing how families use money, time and resources.

Demographic change

changes in population patterns over time, including family size, birth rates, death rates and migration.

Dependant

someone who relies on others for support.

Division of domestic labour

how unpaid work in the home is shared between family members.

Emotional labour

managing feelings and emotions to support others and relationships within the family.

Expressive role

a role focused on emotional care and support within the family.

Extended family

a family that includes relatives beyond parents and children, such as grandparents or aunts.

Family

a group of people connected by blood, marriage, adoption or long-term care who provide support for one another.

Family diversity

the wide range of different family forms and relationships found within and across societies.

Family planning

decisions made by individuals or couples about the number and timing of children.

Family structure

the way a family is organised, including who lives together and how roles are arranged.

Family system

the way family life is organised across a whole society, including rules, roles and power relationships.

Female-centred family system

a family system in which women play a central role in organising family life and care.

Feminism

a sociological perspective that focuses on gender inequality and women's experiences in society.

Foster care

an arrangement where children are cared for by adults who are not their biological parents.

Functionalism

a sociological perspective that sees society as a system of interconnected parts that work together to maintain stability.

Gender equality

the idea that men and women should have equal rights and opportunities.

Gender roles

expectations about how men and women should behave in families and society.

Gender role socialisation

the process by which children learn norms and values associated with being male or female.

Horizontally extended family

an extended family that includes relatives from the same generation.

Household

a group of people who live together in the same home.

Ideology

a set of ideas and beliefs that justify and maintain social arrangements.

Individualisation

the idea that people are increasingly responsible for shaping their own life paths.

Industrialisation

the shift to factory and office-based work.

Infant mortality

the number of deaths of babies before the age of one.

Informal care

unpaid care provided by family members rather than the state or professionals.

Instrumental role

a role focused on earning income and providing financial support for the family.

Intergenerational support

help and care exchanged between different generations within a family.

Internal migration

movement of people within a country.

International migration

movement of people between countries.

Invisible power

power that operates without open conflict, shaping what is seen as normal.

Kinship

a system of social relationships based on blood, marriage or recognised family ties.

Life expectancy

an estimate of the average number of years that a person can be expected to live.

Life-course

stages of life over time.

Living alone

a living arrangement where a person lives by themselves without other household members.

Living apart together (LAT)

a relationship where a couple is committed but lives in separate households.

Loss of functions

transfer of family roles to other institutions.

Love marriage

a marriage based on individual choice and personal relationships.

March of progress

the view that childhood has improved over time.

Marriage

a socially recognised relationship between adults, shaped by cultural and legal rules.

Marxism

a sociological perspective that focuses on class inequality and the impact of capitalism on society.

Matriarchal

societies or family systems where women hold most formal power and authority. Sociologists note that fully matriarchal societies are rare.

Matrifocal

families are organised around mothers and their children.

Monogamy

a marriage system in which a person has one partner at a time.

Norms and values

shared ideas about what is seen as acceptable behaviour.

Nuclear family

a family made up of two parents and their children living together.

Patriarchal family system

a family system in which men hold greater authority and decision-making power.

Patriarchy

a system in which men hold more power and authority than women.

Pivot (sandwich) generation

adults who support their children while also caring for ageing parents.

Polygamous marriage (polygamy)

a person may have more than one partner at a time.

Power

the ability to control decisions, resources or the behaviour of others within relationships or institutions.

Private sphere

areas of life, such as family relationships, that are hidden from public view.

Reconstituted family

a family formed when adults bring children from previous relationships into a new partnership.

Regulation

the social rules and expectations that shape behaviour and relationships.

Reproduction of labour power

the process of raising and supporting workers so they can participate in the economy.

Retirement

the stage of life when a person stops paid work due to age.

Single-parent family

a family in which one adult is responsible for raising one or more children.

Social actor

a person who actively shapes their own experiences.

Social change

changes in social patterns, values or institutions over time.

Social class

a group of people who share a similar economic position in society.

Social institution

an organised pattern of beliefs and behaviours that exists across society and helps meet basic social needs.

Social policy

government action that affects society.

Social power

the ability of individuals or groups to influence others within society.

Social system

a set of rules and ideas that organise life in society.

Socialisation

the process through which individuals learn the norms and values of society.

Socially constructed

the idea that meanings and practices are created by society rather than being fixed by biology or nature.

Status

the social position a person holds in society.

Transnational family

a family whose members live in different countries but keep close relationships.

Triple shift

the combination of paid work, domestic work and emotional work carried out by many women.

Unit of consumption

the role of the family as a group that buys and uses goods and services produced by capitalist businesses.

Urbanisation

movement from rural areas to towns and cities.

Vertically extended family

an extended family that includes several generations.

Violence against women

physical, emotional or controlling behaviour directed at women, often by partners or family members.

Education

Anti-school subculture

students who reject school values and gain status from peers.

Behaviour

how individuals act in relation to rules and expectations.

Blended learning

a mix of online and classroom teaching.

Boarding school

a school that provides accommodation and meals for students during term time.

Class inequality

unequal access to wealth, power and opportunities between social classes.

Compulsory (education)

education that individuals are required to attend by law in many societies.

Correspondence principle

the idea that schools prepare students for work by copying workplace structures.

Credentialism

the reliance on qualifications as proof of ability.

Credentials

academic and work-based qualifications.

Crisis of masculinity

ideas about male identity shaped by society.

Cultural bias

when methods favour one cultural group over others.

Cultural capital

skills, knowledge and confidence that schools reward.

Cultural deprivation

the idea that some children lack cultural skills or experiences valued by schools.

Curriculum

the subjects and knowledge taught in schools.

Deterministic

the idea that people's behaviour is moulded (determined) by their social surroundings.

Digital divide

the gap between people who have good digital access and those who do not.

Digital inequality

unequal access to digital resources that affects learning and achievement.

Distance learning

education completed away from a school site.

Economic development

the level of wealth and resources in a country.

Educational attainment

how well a student achieves in education.

Educational provision

how education is organised and delivered in a society.

Educational transitions

the process of moving from one school to another or through different key stages.

Ethnocentrism

judging other cultures using the standards of one's own culture.

Examinations

formal assessments taken under controlled conditions.

Faith school

a school linked to a religious tradition.

Formal education

organised learning that takes place in institutions such as schools and colleges.

Formal sanctions

official punishments or rewards written into school policy.

Gender stereotypes

fixed ideas about how males and females should behave.

Global inequality

unequal distribution of wealth and opportunities between countries.

Halo effect

judging a student positively based on one favourable trait.

Hidden curriculum

the unwritten lessons about behaviour, values and norms learned through school life.

Human capital

skills and knowledge gained through education that make people productive workers.

Ideal pupil

the type of student a teacher sees as easiest to teach.

Ideological state apparatus

institutions such as schools which spread ruling-class ideas.

Inclusive education

education designed to meet diverse needs.

Informal education

learning that happens outside schools through everyday life.

Informal sanctions

everyday responses to behaviour that are not officially recorded.

Interactionism

a perspective that focuses on everyday interaction and meaning.

International school

a private school that provides students from different national and cultural backgrounds with an education. The curriculum is often different from the national curriculum of the host country.

Intersectionality

the way social characteristics combine to shape experiences.

IQ tests

tests that measure logic, problem-solving and pattern recognition rather than specific knowledge or subject matter.

Labelling

attaching meanings or identities to individuals and making judgements.

Legitimation

making inequality appear fair and acceptable.

Levels of education

different stages of education, often linked to learning and qualifications.

Literacy

the ability to read and write at a basic level.

Literacy rate

the percentage of the population of a given age group that can read and write.

Material deprivation

a lack of money and basic resources that can make education more difficult.

Meritocracy

a system where success is based on ability and effort.

Micro

an approach that focuses on small groups or individuals, rather than the structure of society as a whole.

Myth of meritocracy

the idea of fairness and equality of opportunity is a lie. The belief that success comes from hard work and ability is there to stop people from challenging the system.

Negative sanctions

punishments given for unacceptable behaviour.

Nursery (pre-school) education

an early childhood programme of learning and play.

Official curriculum

the subjects and knowledge that schools are meant to teach.

Online learning

education delivered using digital technology and the internet.

Overgeneralisation

assuming all members of a group share the same experiences.

Particularistic standards

rules based on personal relationships such as family ties.

PISA

an international assessment comparing reading, mathematics and science skills.

Positive sanctions

rewards given for acceptable behaviour.

Poverty

not having enough money to buy the things your household needs and to participate fully in society.

Primary education

the stage after pre-school (or sometimes the first stage) of formal education, providing children with basic literacy and numeracy, and social skills essential for further education and personal growth.

Private school

a school funded mainly through fees.

Progressive school

a school that focuses on a student's individuality.

Pro-school subculture

students who accept school rules and aim to succeed.

Reproduction

the process by which class inequality is passed from one generation to the next.

Residential school

a school where students live and study during the school year, especially students with special needs.

Role allocation

sorting individuals into different roles or jobs based on achievement.

Sanctions

rewards or punishments used to control behaviour.

School ethos

the values and beliefs that shape daily life in a school.

Secondary education

education that builds upon the learning outcomes of primary education, providing students with more advanced knowledge, skills and competences.

Selective school

a school that chooses students based on ability or other criteria.

Self-fulfilling prophecy

when expectations influence behaviour and lead to outcomes that confirm them.

Social cohesion

the way shared values help hold society together.

Social control

the methods society uses to encourage conformity to rules and norms.

Social solidarity

a sense of unity and belonging in society.

State or public school

a school funded and controlled by the government.

Stereotyping

making oversimplifications and generalisations about a social group.

Student (or pupil) subculture

a group of students who share similar values, attitudes and behaviours within a school.

Teacher expectations

beliefs teachers hold about students' ability and behaviour.

Tertiary education

education beyond secondary education, including higher and vocational education.

Unequal access to knowledge

differences in who gets access to valued knowledge in education.

Universalistic standards

rules that apply equally to everyone regardless of personal background.

Victim blaming

when individuals are blamed for their problems.

Vocational education

education focused on job-related skills.

Research methods

Abstract

an idea that is not fixed, or concrete; it may have more than one meaning

Aim

a statement summarising the overall intention of the research

Analysis

breaking down information to identify patterns and relationships

Authenticity

whether a source is genuine and trustworthy

Bias

when a researcher's viewpoint or presence influences the data collected

Causation

when one variable directly affects another

Cause and effect

the relationship between variables where the cause is responsible for the effect

Closed question

a question with fixed response options

Coding

labelling pieces of data to identify themes

Comparative language

the words and phrases used to show similarities or differences between two or more things

Conclusion

the researcher's final explanation based on evidence

Correlation

a statistical relationship between two variables

Covert observation

when the researcher's identity and purpose are hidden

Cultural background

the class, age, gender or ethnicity of the researcher

Data interpretation

the process of making sense of data by identifying patterns, explanations and meanings

Demand characteristics

clues or signals in a research setting which might lead participants to guess the purpose of the study and change their behaviour

Dependent variable

the factor that the researcher measures because of a change in the independent variable in an experiment

Ecological validity

how well findings reflect real-life behaviour

Ethics

standards which should be followed when conducting research

Ethnography

the detailed study of people in their natural setting to understand their way of life

Evaluation

assessing the quality and usefulness of data or findings

Experiment

a research method that tests a hypothesis by changing one factor and observing the result

Field experiment

research conducted in a natural setting where one variable is still changed

Gatekeeper

a person who controls access to a group to be researched

Generalisability

applying research findings to a wider population

Going native

a situation in ethnographic research where the researcher becomes too emotionally or socially involved with the group they are studying and loses objectivity

Group interview

an interview involving several participants at once

Hawthorne effect

when people change their behaviour because they know they are being observed

Hypothesis

a prediction about how or why something happens

Independent variable

the factor that the researcher changes or manipulates in an experiment

Informed consent

participants taking part in research have agreed to do so, and are fully aware of the nature, aims and purpose of the research, and how the findings will be used

Interpretation

explaining what qualitative data reveals about social life

Interpretivism

an approach that explains human behaviour by interpreting the actions of individuals; it looks at the meanings, motives and reasons for human behaviour

Interview

a method of collecting data through direct conversation between a researcher and a respondent

Interviewer bias

when a researcher's characteristics, behaviour or tone influences how respondents may answer

Laboratory experiment

research conducted in a controlled setting where variables are carefully managed

Life-course perspective

studying how social factors affect people at different stages of life

Longitudinal study

research that follows the same individuals or groups over a long period of time

Macro

an approach that focuses on large numbers of people and the large-scale structure of society, rather than on individuals

Micro

an approach that focuses on small groups or individuals, rather than the structure of society as a whole

Multistage sample

a sample is taken in stages using smaller and smaller groups (clusters) at each stage

Non-participant observation

when the researcher observes behaviour without joining in

Objectivity

approaching research in a way that is based on facts and not influenced by personal beliefs or feelings

Observation

a research method involving watching and recording behaviour

Official statistics

government-collected data on areas such as crime, health or education

Open question

a question that allows respondents to answer in their own words

Operationalise

break a concept down to turn it into something that is observable and/or measurable

Overt observation

when participants know they are being studied

Participant attrition

when participants drop out of a study before it finishes

Participant observation

when the researcher takes part in the group's activities while observing

Pattern

something that occurs on a regular or repeated basis

Personal document

a record created by an individual that reflects their life or social context

Pilot study

a trial run of a research method using a small sample

Population

the entire group that the researcher wants to draw conclusions about

Positivism

an approach in sociology that believes society can be studied using scientific research methods

Primary data

information and data collected by the researcher themselves

Qualitative data

non-numerical information that explores meanings, feelings and experiences

Qualitative secondary source

a personal document such as a diary, letter, email or photograph that are used for analysis

Quantitative data

information that can be measured and expressed in numbers

Questionnaire

a written set of questions used to collect information from respondents

Quota sample

a researcher selects a number of people (quota) who exhibit particular characteristics

Random sample

a group selected from a larger population without using any system or rule; everyone has an equal chance of being selected

Rapport

a close and positive relationship between the researcher and the sample

Reliability

if the research is repeated in the same way, it generates the same or similar results

Representative

how far findings from a sample can be applied to the wider population

Researcher bias

when the person conducting the research allows their expectations or beliefs to influence the results of the study

Response rate

the percentage of people who return or complete a survey or questionnaire

Sample frame

a list of people who might be willing to take part in the research, from which the sample will be drawn

Sample

the small group of people who represent the target population in a study

Sampling bias

when the sample is not representative of the target population

Secondary data

information and data that already exist

Selective survival

the idea that only certain documents are preserved, often from more privileged groups

Self-completion survey/questionnaire

a survey or questionnaire completed by respondents on their own without a researcher present

Self-fulfilling prophecy

when a belief or expectation influences behaviour so that it becomes true

Snowball sample

starts off small, sometimes just one person, and gets bigger when more contacts are given

Social construction

the idea that meanings, norms and values are created and maintained through social interaction rather than being naturally given or fixed

Social desirability bias

when respondents give answers they believe are acceptable rather than truthful

Social policy

the plans and actions adopted by nation and local government and other organisations to solve problems and improve society

Social survey

a large-scale questionnaire usually sent out in the post

Standardised procedure

a set order of carrying out a study that is applied to all participants

Stratified random sample

dividing the sample frame into groups and then randomly selecting from those groups in a systematic way

Structured interview

an interview with a fixed set of standardised questions asked in the same order

Subjective

research based on opinion, emotions or feelings, which can be influenced by personal bias

Survey

a method of collecting data from people through pre-set and standardised questions

Systematic sample

every n th member of the sample frame is selected for the sample

Theme

a recurring idea or pattern found in qualitative data

Trend

something that changes over time

Triangulation

using more than one method, source or researcher to study the same topic

Unstructured interview

a flexible interview that allows respondents to answer in their own words

Validity

how accurately data reflects people's real experiences

Variable

something in research that is subject to change and can be measured

Verstehen

understanding human behaviour by putting yourself in the position of the people being studied; having empathy with them

Differences and inequalities

Achieved status

a status a person generates for themselves through effort.

Age discrimination

being treated unfairly because of your age.

Agency

the ability of a person to act independently and make their own choices about themselves.

Alienation

individuals who are separated from aspects of society or work.

Apartheid

a system of stratification based on skin colour.

Ascribed status

a status given to a person at birth.

Asset

a valuable financial resource.

Assimilation

individuals or groups adopt the norms, values and behaviours of a dominant culture.

Biological process of ageing

stages and biological changes a person goes through as they get older.

Bourgeoisie

the dominant or ruling class.

Caste system

a social hierarchy based on the Hindu belief in reincarnation which determines a person's social position during their lifetime.

Census

survey about the population.

Child centredness

the idea that children need love, protection and enrichment.

Class

based on a person's economic position and life chances determined by their skills, qualifications and the demand for their labour.

Class consciousness

an awareness of social class position.

Cognitive development

understanding and awareness of the world, thoughts, feelings and emotions.

Cohort

a group of people with a shared characteristic.

Collective identity

an individual's sense of belonging to a group, and how that group is seen by others.

Colonialism

when one nation establishes political and economic control over another nation or territory, usually through settlement or conquest.

Communism

an equal society, without social class or class conflict, in which the means of production are the common property of everyone.

Cultural capital

the tastes, values, interests, knowledge and social contacts that result in material rewards and success; associated with Marxism.

Cultural defence

cultures wanting to preserve and protect traditional identity.

Cultural homogenisation

cultures are becoming more like each other.

Debt bondage

a type of slavery where somebody is paying back a debt, usually money they owe.

Demographic trends

characteristic changes in the population.

Development aid

assistance in the form of monetary contributions, materials, activities or services to improve economic, social and political conditions in developing countries.

Diaspora

a group of people who have migrated from their homeland but maintain strong cultural and emotional ties to it.

Difference

traits or characteristics which make individuals different.

Digital native

a person who has grown up with digital media and technology.

Disability

when normal day-to-day activities are limited by biological, social or environmental factors.

Discrimination

unfair or prejudicial treatment of people and groups based on characteristics such as race, gender, age or sexual orientation.

Egalitarian

people deserve equal rights and opportunities.

Enslavement

the action of making someone a slave, meaning they are owned by another person.

Ethnicity

the shared culture of a social group which gives its members a common identity in some ways different from that of other groups.

Ethnocentric

viewing one's own culture as superior to other cultures and does not value the contribution of other cultures.

False class consciousness

a distorted view of reality in which exploited workers fail to see the true cause of their oppression.

Femininity

ideas and characteristics about what females should be like.

Fundamentalism

a return to the basics of religion with little room for interpretation.

Gender inequality

the unequal treatment of people based on their gender.

Gender separatism

the belief or practice of separating people based on gender, often involving women creating independent spaces or communities away from men, sometimes as a response to inequality or oppression.

Gender

socially constructed ideas about what it means to be male or female in a specific time or place.

Generation

a group of people born and living during the same time.

Glass ceiling

an invisible barrier of prejudice and discrimination that stops women, ethnic minorities and the working classes from accessing top jobs.

Global disparity

the unequal distribution of resources and opportunities across the world's population.

Globalisation

the world becoming more interconnected economically, culturally and politically due to the exchange of views, products and ideas, and different forms of culture.

Human trafficking

the illegal movement of people across the globe for labour, marriage or sexual services.

Hybrid identity

an individual forms an identity which combines elements from two cultures into a single identity.

Identity

a sense of who you are.

Imperialism

a policy of extending a country's power through colonisation.

Income

a flow of money that people obtain from work, from their investments or from the state.

Individual identity

how individuals see and define themselves.

Individualism

emphasises the importance of the individual; serving your own needs first.

Inequality

the difference and disparity in opportunities, rewards and position an individual experiences in a society.

Institutional racism

discrimination that occurs at an organisational level.

Intergenerational mobility

the extent to which social status is transmitted from one generation to the next.

Intersectionality

how individuals are the result of different social characteristics, such as ethnicity, class and gender, that intertwine to impact overall inequality.

Intragenerational mobility

the social mobility of an individual during their lifetime.

Life chances

the opportunities a person has in life.

Marginalised

a feeling of being pushed out of society, or not fully being part of it, with little power to change the situation.

Masculinity

ideas and characteristics about what males should be like.

Means of production

land, tools, raw materials, machinery, factories.

Medicalise

defining a problem as medical which then requires treatment.

Meritocracy

rewards are based on merit, talent and effort.

Mortality rate

a measure of the number of deaths in a population, scaled to the size of the population, in a known timeframe.

Multiculturalism

different people with equal status in the same place.

Nationality

having citizenship of a nation state, including the right of residence, voting rights and a passport.

Nationalisation

the state ownership of industries.

Occupational segregation

strands of the jobs sector which are dominated by one sex.

Party

the exercise of power through political parties, pressure groups and other organisations.

Proletariat

the working class.

Race

physical biological differences in common descent.

Race classifications

grouping and naming a category, such as Asian.

Racism

the claim that one racial or ethnic group is inherently superior to another.

Religiosity

the level and extent of religious belief a person has.

Role allocation

sorting individuals into different roles or jobs based on achievement.

Secularisation

the decline of religion in society.

Sex

the biological features that differentiate men from women.

Sex discrimination

when a person is treated differently because of their sex or gender.

Sexism

unfair beliefs and attitudes towards people (especially women) because of their sex.

Slavery

a situation where people are sold like objects. Slaves are owned and forced to work for no pay.

Social class

a group of people who share a similar economic situation and social status. It is a system of stratification found over large parts of the world.

Social cohesion

a society that is united by shared beliefs, resulting in bonds that link individuals to each other and to society as a whole.

Social construct

something that is created through social interactions and defined by people, such as childhood.

Social democratic welfare state

a system in which the government is responsible for bringing about a more equal and fairer society.

Socialism

a society where the means of production, distribution, and exchange are owned by the community as a whole (collective ownership).

Social mobility

the ability of individuals or families to move between social strata – that is, within a system of stratification.

Solidarity

a feeling of belonging or togetherness.

Status

a person's social standing in society. It is the amount of prestige or social importance a person has in the eyes of other members of a group or society.

Stereotype

a belief held about a group of people that is not factually correct. It is often an oversimplified and generalised view.

Stratification

layering or hierarchy which places people into an order in society.

Surplus value

profit that is derived from the exploitation of the proletariat.

Universal

everyone benefits and is treated equally regardless of who they are and their financial situation.

Wealth

a measure of the value of all of the assets of worth owned by a person. In general, these assets can be sold and turned into cash.

Welfare state

a form of government where the state provides material and economic support to its citizen

Socialisation and social control

Ability

socially constructed ideas about what a person should be able to do, mentally and physically.

Achieved status

a status a person creates for themselves through effort.

Agencies of socialisation

the different people, groups and institutions that teach an individual the norms, values and behaviours of the society in which they live.

Agenda setting

the process through which people working in the media industry determine what is to be considered important and what to prioritise or overlook in terms of the news.

Ascribed status

a status given to a person at birth.

Assimilation identity

individuals or groups adopt the norms, values and behaviours of a dominant culture.

Capital punishment

the death penalty. The state-sanctioned execution of an offender for crimes including murder, terrorism or treason.

Cohort

a group of people with a shared characteristic.

Collective identity

an individual's sense of belonging to a group, and how that group is seen by others.

Colonial identity

the identity formed under foreign domination, characterised by notions of a superior coloniser and an inferior colonised.

Colonialism

when one nation establishes political and economic control over another nation or territory, usually through settlement or conquest.

Conflict view/theory

a perspective that focuses on the inequalities and conflict between various groups in society.

Consensus view/theory

a perspective that regards social control as having a beneficial effect on society.

Consumption

the process of buying and using goods and services.

Corporal punishment

a physical punishment intended to cause pain, such as flogging, beating and mutilation.

Corporate crime

a crime carried out by, or on the behalf of, a company, with the aim of making greater profits for the business.

Culture

the shared way of life of a group of people.

Custodial punishment

imprisonment for a period of time set by the court.

Cybercrime

criminal activities carried out by means of computers or the internet.

Dark figure of crime

the volume of criminal offenses that are committed but never reported to the police or recorded in official statistics.

Deviance

behaviour that is seen as wrong in a given time and place.

Deviance amplification

when the media exacerbate the crime that they are reporting about by exaggerating it or reporting it in a distorted way.

Deviant subculture

a group that develops values, norms and behaviours differing from, and often opposing, the mainstream culture.

Diaspora

a group of people who have migrated from their homeland but maintain strong cultural and emotional ties to it.

Disability

a physical or mental impairment which affects a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Discreditable identities

identities where the stigma is hidden but could be exposed.

Discredited identities

identities where the stigma is visible.

Discrimination

unfair or prejudicial treatment of people and groups based on characteristics such as race, gender, age or sexual orientation.

Elite

a small group of people holding great power and privilege in society.

Ethnic group

a community made up of people who share a common cultural background.

Ethnicity

an individual's shared cultural identity.

Folk devils

groups whose behaviour is seen as a threat to society.

Formal social control

the ways governments and institutions maintain order and regulate behaviour through laws, rules and official sanctions.

Framing theory

related to agenda setting; the media focuses attention on certain events and then places them within a field of meaning. How something is presented to the audience ('the frame') influences the choices people make about how to process that information.

Gender

socially constructed ideas about what it means to be a man or a woman in a specific time and place.

Generalised other

when an individual understands and responds to the attitudes and viewpoints of those in their society.

Generational identity

a group of people born and living during the same time.

Globalisation

the growing interconnectedness of economic, cultural and political structures across the world due to the exchange of views, products and ideas, and other forms of culture.

Green/environmental crime

illegal activities that harm the environment, wildlife, natural resources or human health.

Hegemony

Gramsci's concept to explain how dominant groups maintain power through the subtle use of ideas to win the consent of subordinate groups.

Heterosexuality

a sexual orientation towards people of the opposite sex.

Hidden curriculum

the informal learning processes that occur in school. they are the assumptions, unwritten rules, beliefs, values and customs which exist alongside the formal curriculum.

Hybrid identity

an individual forms an identity which combines elements from two cultures into a single identity.

Identity (individual)

how individuals see and define themselves and how other people see and define them.

Ideological state apparatus (ISA)

a state institution that maintains social control by shaping people's beliefs, values and ideas, and encouraging individuals to accept the existing social order without the use of force.

Impairment

some loss, limitation or difference of functioning of the mind or body.

Impression management

the ways individuals attempt to control how they are perceived by others; also known as self-presentation.

Inadequate socialisation

the result of an individual not being fully socialised; failing to learn the norms and values of a society.

Informal social control

everyday methods used by society to encourage individuals to follow norms and behave appropriately.

In-group

the group an individual identifies with and feels they belong to.

Interpellation

according to Althusser, ideologies 'hail' people and offer them a particular identity which they are encouraged to accept. They are not forced to accept that role through violence.

Master status

a dominant status that overrides all other statuses that person may have; often, a person is judged on their master status.

Moral entrepreneurs

individuals or groups who seek to have certain behaviours defined as deviant.

Moral panic

an exaggerated fear, often of a group or a behaviour.

Nationalism

a sense of pride and commitment to a nation, and a very strong sense of national identity.

Nationality

having citizenship of a nation state, including the right of residence, voting rights and a passport.

Negotiated order

a concept that emphasises the dynamic and interactive nature of social order.

Non-custodial punishment

discharges, fines and community order, but not imprisonment.

Norms

unwritten rules that guide how people are expected to behave.

Othering

the process through which some individuals or groups are seen and treated as different or separate from the dominant group in society.

Out-group

a group the individual doesn't belong to.

Peer group

a group of people of similar status, and usually age, who an individual regularly has contact with.

Personal troubles

a problem affecting an individual.

Person-first language

a way to emphasise the person before the disability.

Police statistics

records of crimes that have been reported to the police and formally recorded by them.

Policing

how the police survey, control and enforce rules using their authority.

Precariat

a social class formed by people without stability or security in work, income and life.

Primary socialisation

socialisation during the early years of childhood which takes place within the family.

Property crime

a crime involving the theft, damage or destruction of property.

Public issues

large-scale faults in society.

Race

a socially constructed idea often centred around physical characteristics and how society responds to these characteristics.

Racism

according to UNESCO, racism is any theory that involves the claim that one racial or ethnic group is inherently superior to another.

Repressive state apparatus (RSA)

a state institution that maintains ruling-class dominance through force and coercion.

Resistance identity

protesting against and countering a mainstream identity that disadvantages another group.

Re-socialisation

learning new norms and values to enable people to operate in a changed or new social environment, or when their life circumstances change.

Role allocation

the idea that education sifts and sorts into the correct job or role in society.

Roles

the patterns of behaviour that are expected from individuals in society.

Sanction

an action taken in order to make individuals obey a law or rule, or a punishment given when they do not obey.

Secondary socialisation

socialisation that takes place beyond the family and continues throughout life.

Self-branding

creating a public persona in order to influence others and gain followers.

Self-report studies

anonymous questionnaires asking individuals to confess to crimes they have committed.

Sex

the biological features that differentiate men from women.

Social action (interactionist) theory

a theory that emphasises the creative action people take. It focuses on the meanings and motives people attach to their behaviour.

Social class

a broad group of people who share a similar economic situation, such as occupation, income and ownership of wealth.

Social construct

something that is created through social interactions and defined by people, such as childhood.

Social construction of deviance

the view that no acts or behaviours are automatically deviant. Deviance is defined by society.

Social control

the methods used to persuade or force individuals to conform to values and norms.

Social harms

a term used to describe deviant behaviour. The behaviour is not illegal or officially a crime.

Socialisation

the process by which norms and values are passed on and learned.

Sociological imagination

an awareness of the relationship between personal experiences and larger societal forces that shape a person's choices and perceptions.

State crime

an illegal activity carried out by, or on the behalf of, the government.

Status

the position a person occupies in society; the importance a person has in the eyes of others in that society.

Stereotype

an oversimplified and generalised view of a social group.

Stigma

a quality or characteristic an individual may have that others view negatively.

Subculture

a smaller culture held by a group of people within the main culture of a society.

Surveillance capital

a new form of capitalism that uses personal data taken from surveillance as its raw material.

Surveillance

how agencies such as the police watch and monitor people, places or activities to gather information with the aim of preventing or investigating crime.

Taking the role of the other

when an individual tries to imagine how others see them.

The self

how we see ourselves from the perspective of others.

Third space

where a cultural encounter occurs between the coloniser and the colonised, producing a hybridity in culture.

Value consensus

general agreement around the main values of a society.

Values

the shared beliefs about what is right or acceptable in society.

Victim surveys

questionnaires or structured interviews that ask people if they have been victims of crime.

Victimless crime

a crime in which no individual is harmed or injured.

Violent crime

a crime involving physical force against another individual.

Virtual community

a group of people who interact online through shared interests or values.

White-collar crime

crimes of powerful groups, often including individuals who are less likely to be policed and punished in society.