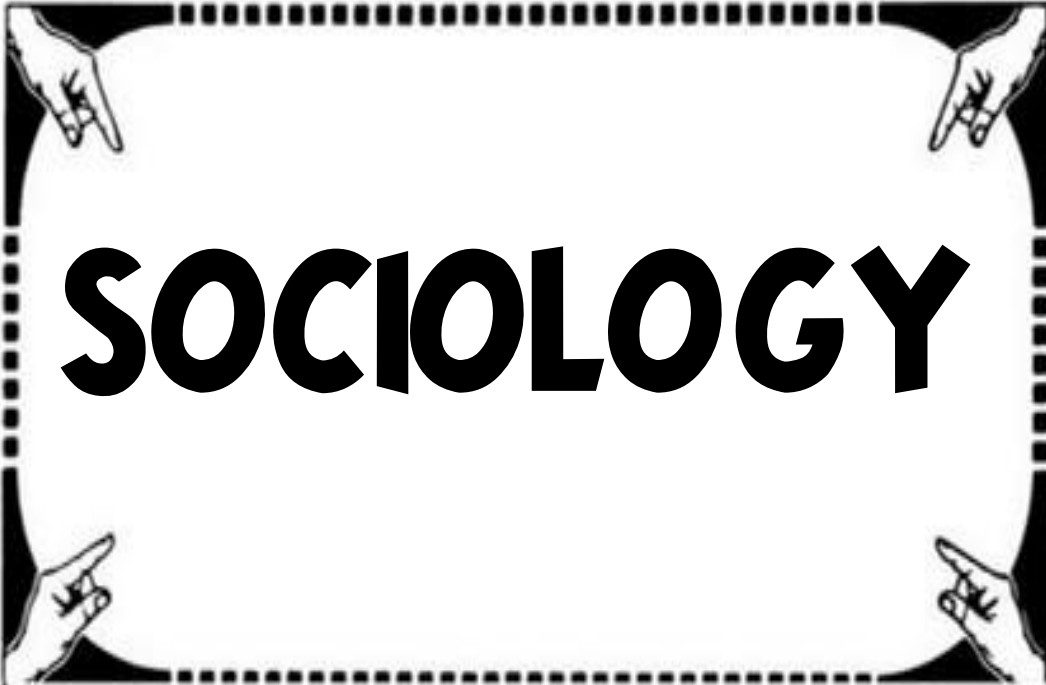




SOCIOLOGY KEY TERM QUADRANTS



SOCIOLOGY

DEFINITION

Sociology is the study of society, patterns of social relationships, social interaction and culture of everyday life. It is a social science that uses various methods of empirical investigation and critical analysis to develop a body of knowledge about social order, acceptance, and change or social evolution.

USE THE TERM IN A SENTENCE

" It was in my study of A Level sociology that I learnt about culture, Marxism and research methods."

EXAMPLES IF APPROPRIATE

ASSOCIATED TERMS

- Social Sciences
- Society
- Social Psychology
- Social Order



DETERMINISM

DEFINITION

The theory that all events, including human action, are ultimately determined by causes regarded as external to the will.

USE THE TERM IN A SENTENCE

“ Marxism is criticised for being deterministic as it says that all behaviour and social structures are created by Capitalism and not free will.”

EXAMPLES IF APPROPRIATE

ASSOCIATED TERMS

- Reductionism
- Evaluation
- Criticism



REDUCTIONISM

DEFINITION

The practice of analysing and describing a complex phenomenon in terms of its simple or fundamental constituents, or reducing complex behaviour down to one cause.

USE THE TERM IN A SENTENCE

"Feminism can be criticised for being reductionist as it believes that all social problems are the result of patriarchal society."

EXAMPLES IF APPROPRIATE

ASSOCIATED TERMS

- Determinism
- Evaluation
- Criticism



NORMS

DEFINITION

Social norms are guidelines for expected behaviors, thus they set out our options for appropriate behavior. **Norms** can be loosely held, such as folkways, or tightly held, such as mores and taboos, those that are often built into the legal code.

USE THE TERM IN A SENTENCE

"Most people in a society will follow the social norms as this allows them to interact with each other and live as part of a community."

EXAMPLES IF APPROPRIATE

- Holding open a door for someone.
- Saying please and thank you.
- Joining the back of a Queue

ASSOCIATED TERMS

- Mores
- Laws
- Values
- Consensus
- Deviance



VALUES

DEFINITION

Values are the beliefs and goals that are important to people.

Universalistic Values are the ones which are shared by a society

Particularistic Values are those which are specific to an individual or family.

USE THE TERM IN A SENTENCE

"Marxists believe that social values are a reflection of the ruling class ideology and a means to prevent revolution."

EXAMPLES IF APPROPRIATE

- Having a good job.
- Own your own home
- Marriage and Children.

ASSOCIATED TERMS

- Mores
- Laws
- Norms
- Consensus
- Deviance

A graphic design featuring a central text element surrounded by a decorative border. The border consists of a series of small black dots forming a square frame. At each of the four corners of this frame, there is a stylized black and white illustration of a hand with the index finger pointing towards the center. The background within the frame is white.

SOCIALSIATION

DEFINITION

The process by which a person learns the norms and values of society. Firstly through primary socialisation from immediate family and then reinforced through secondary socialisation such as education, friends and the media.

USE THE TERM IN A SENTENCE

"It is through the socialisation process that people learn how to behave in society and be accepted by the community."

EXAMPLES IF APPROPRIATE

ASSOCIATED TERMS

- Primary Socialisation
- Secondary Socialisation
- Feral Children
- Norms
- Values
- Hidden Curriculum
- Ruling Class ideology



PERSPECTIVE

DEFINITION

A way of interpreting and looking at society and the study of society.

USE THE TERM IN A SENTENCE

"It is through the functionalist perspective that we are able to see the ways in which elements of society work together to maintain the society and keep it moving forward."

EXAMPLES IF APPROPRIATE

- Marxism
- Feminisms
- Functionalism
- Interactionism
- Postmodernism
- Late Modernity

ASSOCIATED TERMS

- Paradigm
- View Point
- Structuralism
- Macro Approach
- Micro Approach



**SOCIAL
INSTITUTIONS**

DEFINITION

The organised arrangements and structures which are found in most societies

USE THE TERM IN A SENTENCE

"It is through the functionalist perspective that we are able to see the ways in which elements of society work together to maintain the society and keep it moving forward."

EXAMPLES IF APPROPRIATE

- Family
- Education
- Religion
- Economy
- Politics

ASSOCIATED TERMS

- Social Structures
- Organisation
- Society
- Universalism



**SOCIAL
FACTS**

DEFINITION

Social phenomena which exist outside of the individual but act upon them as a way of constraining or shaping their behaviour.

USE THE TERM IN A SENTENCE

“Émile Durkheim argued that the discipline of sociology should be understood as the empirical study of **social facts**.”

EXAMPLES IF APPROPRIATE

- The law
- Economy
- Education
- Family

ASSOCIATED TERMS

- Social structures
- Positivism
- Functionalism
- Objective
- Empirical



CULTURE

DEFINITION

The ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society.

USE THE TERM IN A SENTENCE

"By understanding the culture of a particular group we are able to understand their behaviours and motivations."

EXAMPLES IF APPROPRIATE

- High culture
- Popular Culture
- Sub Cultures
- Folk Culture
- Global Culture

ASSOCIATED TERMS

- Sub culture
- Norms
- Values
- Traditions
- Customs
- Beliefs
- Rituals

A graphic design featuring a central text area enclosed by a dotted border. Four hands are positioned at the corners, pointing towards the center. The hands are stylized with black outlines and white fill. The text is in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

SOCIAL IDENTITY

DEFINITION

One's sense of self as a member of a social group (or groups).

USE THE TERM IN A SENTENCE

"Sociologists use the concept of social identity to explain how people understand who they are and why they do what they do. According to social identity theory, people classify themselves and others as belonging to specific groups."

EXAMPLES IF APPROPRIATE

ASSOCIATED TERMS

- Personal Identity
- Culture
- Class
- Age
- Disability
- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Sexuality



**PERSONAL
IDENTITY**

DEFINITION

The combination of choices a person makes about how they present themselves to the rest of society.

USE THE TERM IN A SENTENCE

"They showed their personal identity through their choices of hair style, clothing and music tastes."

EXAMPLES IF APPROPRIATE

ASSOCIATED TERMS

- Social Identity
- Culture
- Postmodernism
- Looking Glass Self
- Reflexivity



**FORMAL
SOCIAL
CONTROL**

DEFINITION

External sanctions enforced by government to prevent the establishment of chaos or anomie in society.

USE THE TERM IN A SENTENCE

"Very often it is the formal social control which prevents change within society as they hold the power of the state."

EXAMPLES IF APPROPRIATE

- Police
- Military
- Criminal Justice System

ASSOCIATED TERMS

- Legal system
- Government
- Marginalisation



**INFORMAL
SOCIAL
CONTROL**

DEFINITION

The reactions of individuals and groups that bring about conformity to norms and laws—including peer and community pressure, bystander intervention, and collective responses.

USE THE TERM IN A SENTENCE

"It has been noted that communities that have high levels of informal social control also have low levels of petty crime and vandalism."

EXAMPLES IF APPROPRIATE

- Family
- Peer Group
- Community Links

ASSOCIATED TERMS

- Marginalisation
- Ostracization
- Impression management
- Social Roles.



ETHNOCENTRISM

DEFINITION

The view that one's own culture is better than anyone else's culture.

As a practice, it consists of evaluating other cultures from the perspective of one's own.

USE THE TERM IN A SENTENCE

"The UK Education system is criticized for being ethnocentric due to its focus on UK History and culture."

EXAMPLES IF APPROPRIATE

ASSOCIATED TERMS

- Culture
- Identity
- Social Group



**SOCIAL
ROLES**

DEFINITION

Patterns of behavior that are expected of individuals in society within a particular context.

USE THE TERM IN A SENTENCE

"The social roles that we play are based on a loose script of societal norms but play out more like improvisation."

EXAMPLES IF APPROPRIATE

- Sibling
- Student
- Friend
- Child
- Parent
- Partner

ASSOCIATED TERMS

- Culture
- Identity
- Social Group
- Interpretivism



**SOCIAL
CLASS**

DEFINITION

A broad group of people who share similar economic status, occupation, income and wealth.

USE THE TERM IN A SENTENCE

"A persons social class has become much more subjective and difficult to determine in modern society, compared to when Marx was writing."

EXAMPLES IF APPROPRIATE

- Under Class
- Working Class
- Middle Class
- Upper Class
- Elite Class

ASSOCIATED TERMS

- Social Group
- Bourgeoise
- Proletariat
- Marxism
- Socio-economic background
- Life Chances



GLOBALISATION

DEFINITION

An ongoing process that involves interconnected changes in the economic, cultural, social, and political spheres of society. As a process, it involves the ever-increasing integration of these aspects between nations, regions, communities, and even seemingly isolated places.

USE THE TERM IN A SENTENCE

"Globalisation has led to greater choice in our personal identities and the hybridisation of cultures."

EXAMPLES IF APPROPRIATE

ASSOCIATED TERMS

- Postmodernism
- Macdonaldisation
- Disneyfication
- Cultural Hybridisation
- Pick and Mix culture



CAPITALISM

DEFINITION

An economic system in which there is private ownership (as opposed to state ownership) and where there is an impetus to produce profit, and thereby wealth.

USE THE TERM IN A SENTENCE

"According to the Marxists, capitalism is the root cause of societal problems."

EXAMPLES IF APPROPRIATE

ASSOCIATED TERMS

- Communism
- Means of Production
- Relationships of Production
- Socialism
- Proletariat
- Bourgeoisie



IDEOLOGY

DEFINITION

A set of ideas, values and beliefs that represent the outlook and justifies the interests of a social group

USE THE TERM IN A SENTENCE

"Ruling class or dominant ideology is what is transmitted through the social institutions as part of the socialisation process."

EXAMPLES IF APPROPRIATE

ASSOCIATED TERMS

- Beliefs
- Values
- Interests
- Social Groups
- ideas



MARGINALISATION

DEFINITION

The process of pushing a particular group or groups of people to the edge of society by not allowing them an active voice, identity, or place in it.

USE THE TERM IN A SENTENCE

"Young people and ethnic minorities often feel marginalised within society which can lead to deviant or criminal behaviour."

EXAMPLES IF APPROPRIATE

ASSOCIATED TERMS

- Ostracization
- Sub cultures
- Social groups
- Informal social control



PATRIARCHY

DEFINITION

The systematic domination of women by men in some or all of society's spheres and institutions

USE THE TERM IN A SENTENCE

"Feminists believe that patriarchy is the single biggest cause of female oppression in society."

EXAMPLES IF APPROPRIATE

ASSOCIATED TERMS

- Oppression
- Malestream Sociology
- Feminism
- Glass Ceiling



ANOMIE

DEFINITION

A condition of instability resulting from a breakdown of standards and values or from a lack of purpose or ideals.

USE THE TERM IN A SENTENCE

"It could be argued that the last time society entered anomie was during the cultural and social revolutions of the 1960's."

EXAMPLES IF APPROPRIATE

ASSOCIATED TERMS

- Functionalism
- Social Change
- Cultural Revolution
- Social Cohesion



**SOCIAL
CONSTRUCTION**

DEFINITION

Social phenomena that is created by a society and is not naturally occurring. The phenomena therefore varies from culture to culture.

USE THE TERM IN A SENTENCE

"Crime and deviance is a social construction as definitions of what is considered crime or deviance varies by culture, historical era and social context."

EXAMPLES IF APPROPRIATE

ASSOCIATED TERMS

- Society
- Culture
- Phenomena
- Differences
- Variations



**LIFE
CHANCES**

DEFINITION

The chances of obtaining those things defined as desirable and of avoiding those things defined as undesirable in society.

USE THE TERM IN A SENTENCE

"A persons life chance can be determined by a number of factors including their social class and ethnicity."

EXAMPLES IF APPROPRIATE

ASSOCIATED TERMS

- Class
- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Opportunities
- Value Consensus
- Values
- Goals