



Perspective 1: Functionalism

Society should be kept stable

Institutions like the government, schools and family help to make society a better place

Those in power deserve to be there

Upbringing is really important for shaping one's character

Society is fair

Tradition is important

LINKS:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jOZqVnQmdY>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-11213968>



Perspective 2: Marxism

Society should be overthrown

Institutions like the government, schools and family exploit the poor

Those in power use force to stay there

Upbringing forces us to accept the values of the ruling class

Society is unfair

Traditions benefit the ruling class

LINKS:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_c2p0Y7mgU

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-16800265>

What is sociology?

Sociologists try to study society in order to understand how it works.

In sociology there are four dominant viewpoints about how society works. They are described around this page. Read them and explore the links.



Your task is to download the BBC news app on your phone and for every article that you read decide if it has elements from each of the four perspectives.

So now that you've thought like a sociologist, how do you think society works?



Perspective 3: Feminism

Society is characterised by men dominating women

Society needs to change to be more equal for women

Men are in power across society

Upbringing reflects dominant male values which females are forced to accept

Institutions like the family and police control women

Traditions benefit men

LINKS:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xorqPUYu_SE

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/c340r11jgrzt/violence-against-women>



Perspective 4: Post-modernism

Society is changing fast

Life in society is characterised by choice and freedom

Traditions are disappearing

Society is more 'risky' and unstable than ever before

Existing sociological perspectives are no longer relevant

Society has become more global

LINKS:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QqsP0vQJJ44>

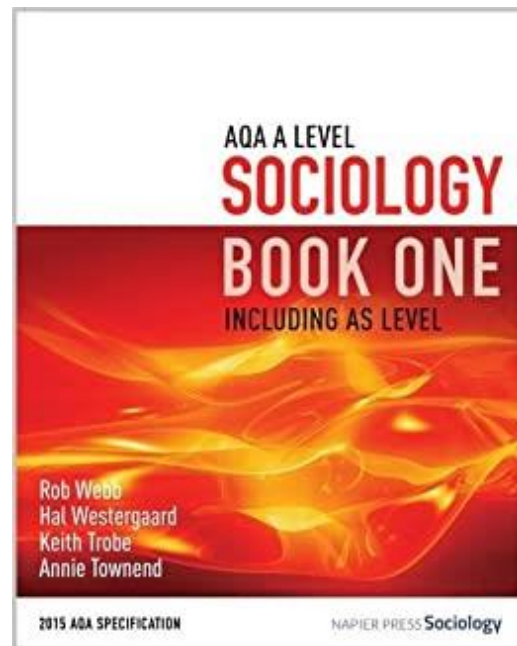
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-23726120>

OPTIONAL EXTRA:

It is not required but you may wish to purchase the accompanying textbook to the course in advance to begin reading over summer. This will give you an even further head start as you will become used to the topics discussed and the language used in sociology.

They are readily available online and there is no issue with second hand versions.

Please read the 'Introduction to sociology' and then the 'Family and Households' and 'Education' sections



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<https://www.amazon.co.uk/AQA-Level-Sociology-Book-Including/dp/0954007913>