

Glossary of Key Terms and Concepts for Unit 1

The following glossary provides a list of key terms and concepts that are integral to the topics for Unit 1 within the specification. This can be used to help with teaching and/or revision to ensure that students are familiar with them.

Topic 1 Studying Society

Agents/agencies of socialisation
Beliefs
Conformity
Conflict/consensus
Culture
Cultural differences
Customs
Discrimination
Ethnic group/ethnicity
Feminism
Functionalism
Gender/Sex
Identity
Marxism
Multicultural society
Nature/nurture
Norms
Roles - multiple roles and role conflict
Role models
Peer group
Prejudice
Race
Racism
Role
Role conflict
Sanctions
Social control - formal and informal
Social deprivation and the underclass
Social issues
Social mobility
Social policies
Social processes
Social structures
Socialisation - primary and secondary
Status - ascribed and achieved
Stratification
Subculture
Stereotype
Values
Welfare state
Case Study
Content analysis

Covert observation
Closed questions
Ethical considerations - anonymity, confidentiality, informed consent.
Experiments - field/laboratory
Generalisations
Hypothesis
Interviewer bias/effect
Longitudinal studies
Non-participant observation
Official statistics
Open-ended questions
Overt observation
Participant observation
Personal documents
Pilot study
Population
Primary data
Qualitative data
Quantitative data
Reliability
Representative sample
Research aims
Research methods
Research process
Respondent
Sample
Sampling frame
Sampling types - random, stratified, systematic, quota, snowball
Secondary data
Triangulation
Validity

Topic 2 Education

Academies
Anti-school subculture
Citizenship
Comprehensive school system
Cultural capital
De-schooling
Formal curriculum
Ethnocentric curriculum
Free schools
Further/higher education
Hidden curriculum
Home education
Independent sector schools
Inclusion and exclusion
Intelligence Quotient
Labelling
Marketisation of education
Material deprivation
Meritocracy
Mixed ability classes
National curriculum
Official curriculum
Ofsted
Private schools
Public school
SATs
Selective schooling - tripartite system
Self-fulfilling prophecy
Setting and streaming
School league tables
State funded schools
Specialist schools
Vocational education

Topic 3 Families

Beanpole families
Bigamy
Birth rate
Breadwinner
Cereal packet family
Child-centredness
Civil partnership
Cohabitation
Commune
Conjugal roles - joint/segregated
Death rate
Democratic relationships
Demography
Domestic abuse
Domestic division of labour
Divorce rate
Dual-worker families
Extended family
Empty nest
Empty shell marriage
Family Diversity
Fertility rate
Generation
Household
Househusband/wife
Lone-parent family
Marriage rate
Matriarchal family
Monogamy
New man
Neo-conventional families
Nuclear family
Patriarchy
Polygamy
Reconstituted family/step-parent
Symmetrical families
Traditional family roles

NB. Key terms in one topic may be referred to for questions in other areas of the Short Course. Any selection of key terms is of course arbitrary and will often involve other associated ideas and developments within sociology. The list presented here is thus not exhaustive.