

Sociology - Year 12 to 13 Summer Independent Learning 2025

Introduction

One of the topics you study in A Level Sociology is “Theory and Methods”. This topic appears on both Papers 1 and 3 of your AQA Sociology exams in June 2026. In May and June you learned about the “Methods” that sociologists use to do their research. Now you need to concentrate on the “Theory” part. This builds on the knowledge you have already gained from learning about the theories in the Family, Education and also the Methods topics.

The specification detail – Theory and Methods:

4.1.3 Theory and Methods

Students must examine the following areas:

- quantitative and qualitative methods of research; research design
- sources of data, including questionnaires, interviews, participant and non-participant observation, experiments, documents and official statistics
- the distinction between primary and secondary data, and between quantitative and qualitative data
- the relationship between positivism, interpretivism and sociological methods; the nature of ‘social facts’
- the theoretical, practical and ethical considerations influencing choice of topic, choice of method(s) and the conduct of research
- consensus, conflict, structural and social action theories
- the concepts of modernity and post-modernity in relation to sociological theory
- the nature of science and the extent to which Sociology can be regarded as scientific
- the relationship between theory and methods
- debates about subjectivity, objectivity and value freedom
- the relationship between Sociology and social policy.

Completed
in Yr12

To complete
in Yr13

The Theories and Methods booklets are collated as one booklet (T&M).

Tasks

Complete 1 - 6 T&M for your SIL. For each of the T&M booklets you need to:

- Read and annotate each T&M in the T&M booklet.
- Complete the relevant tasks in the workbook – including reading the relevant sections on SharePoint.
- Select 3 essay titles from the workbook and complete detailed A3 plans. Please note, you do not need to do all the essays or plans.
- Revise 1-9 RM for your first Cedar
- Bring all completed work and both booklets to your first lesson in September.