

Knowledge organiser

AQA A Level Sociology 7192 • Families & Households • L002 • v1.0

CONNECT & CHECK | SHARE | PRESENT | APPLY | RECALL & REVIEW

Society shapes us through learning, expectations and unequal opportunities. Socialisation helps explain patterned behaviour, while agency helps explain negotiation, resistance and change.

Concept	Meaning
Culture	Shared meanings, values, practices and ways of life.
Norm	A social expectation about appropriate behaviour, such as taking turns.
Value	An idea about what is desirable or worthwhile, such as fairness.
Status	A recognised social position, such as older sibling or student.
Role	Expected behaviour associated with a status. Expectations vary between groups.
Socialisation	The process of learning culture, including norms, values, roles and identities.
Primary socialisation	Early foundational learning, often through families and carers.
Secondary socialisation	Learning through wider settings such as education, peers, media, religion and work. It continues through life.

Mechanisms and differences

Concept	Meaning
Agent of socialisation	A person, group or institution involved in socialisation.
Imitation	Learning by observing and copying other people's behaviour.
Sanction	A reward or expression of disapproval that encourages conformity.
Social control	Processes that encourage people to conform to norms.
Internalisation	Coming to accept a norm or value as part of one's own expectations.
Subculture	Distinctive meanings, values or practices shared by a group within a wider culture.
Agency	The capacity to act, interpret situations and make choices within social conditions.
Identity	How people understand who they are and how others define them.

A worked chain

Carer → praise for taking turns → positive informal sanction → possible learning of a conversational norm. Repeated behaviour alone does not prove internalisation.

Avoid these confusions

Primary socialisation does not mean primary school. Positive sanctions are rewards, not necessarily morally good responses. Subcultures need not be deviant. An agent is involved in learning; agency is a person's capacity to act.

Retrieve later

Tomorrow: define four terms without notes and give an example. In one week: explain one chain and one reason outcomes may differ. Check and correct using this organiser.