

Sociological perspectives

AQA A Level Sociology 7192 • Families & Households • L003 • v1.0

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

How do sociologists explain society differently?

Connect & Check → Share → Present → Apply → Recall & Review. Compare explanations, apply them to a shared case and judge what evidence is needed. Use fictional examples; no personal family disclosure is required.

Recall and connect

Missed the preparation? Cooperation asks how shared routines support order; inequality asks whose interests are served; meaning asks how people interpret and negotiate a routine.

Use L002 and the flipped readings. Give an explanation before choosing a theory label.

R1

Explain one agent–mechanism–outcome chain and one role for agency.

R2

Match the L002 flipped readings to cooperation, inequality and meaning. What different questions did they ask?

R3

Starting view: “There can be only one sociological explanation of a family routine.” Agree, unsure or disagree? Explain.

Discover perspectives

A perspective is a framework for asking questions. The same routine can be studied through cooperation, power and meaning. Explanations need concepts, a mechanism and evidence.

D1

Explain why a perspective is more than a personal opinion.

D2

Compare consensus and conflict, then structural and social-action approaches.

Discover structural approaches

Functionalism asks how institutions contribute to order. Marxism centres class and economic interests. Feminist approaches examine gendered power, including unpaid care. Each tradition contains differences; these are introductory starting points.

D3

Write one family question for functionalism, Marxism and feminism.

D4

Hinge: “This routine continues, so everyone must benefit equally.” Is that inference justified? Explain.

Discover meaning and evidence

Interactionism examines how people define situations and negotiate meanings. Structural patterns can still matter. A fictional illustration makes a theory understandable, but does not establish how widespread its process is.

D5

Two people both call a routine “fair” but define fairness differently. What would an interactionist ask?

D6

Suggest one kind of evidence that could challenge an explanation of unequal care.

Apply four perspectives

In the fictional Rowan household, two adults work paid shifts and care for a child. One adult does most of the unpaid cooking and arranging of care. The child is praised for helping. Relatives sometimes provide childcare. The adults say that their routine is “fair”, although they describe fairness differently. No genders or incomes are specified.



Observe what is visible, then identify what you would need to ask. Photograph also appears on slide 19.

A1

The photograph shows adults looking at materials. What is visible, and what meaning would you need to ask about?

Apply: the Rowan care routine

In the fictional Rowan household, two adults work paid shifts and care for a child. One adult does most of the unpaid cooking and arranging of care. The child is praised for helping. Relatives sometimes provide childcare. The adults say that their routine is “fair”, although they describe fairness differently. No genders or incomes are specified.

A2

Interpret the Rowan care routine through two perspectives. Use a specific detail for each and identify missing evidence.

A3

Create a research question that separates a Marxist focus from a feminist focus. Why are they not interchangeable?

Optional scaffold: From a [perspective] view, [feature] matters because... In the case... This may explain... To test it, we would need...

Challenge and compare

A useful comparison applies contrasting questions to the same evidence and identifies what each explanation leaves unresolved.

C1

Can a family routine support cooperation and reproduce inequality at the same time? Give a reasoned answer.

C2

Improve: “Functionalists like families and feminists dislike them.”

Prove and improve

Complete the six-item retrieval check before writing independently for eight minutes. The six-mark task uses a local classroom rubric.

P1

Explain two differences between consensus and conflict approaches to families. [6 marks]

P2

Check both sides of each comparison. Improve one example and explain why your revision is stronger.

P3

Return to R3. Explain one useful comparison, one limit and one next step.

Prepare for Lesson 4

Read the three short passages below on residence, relationships and research rules.

Residence

A group of friends may share a home without being counted as a family in an official statistical definition. Living together and being family are different questions.

Relationships

People may describe relatives living elsewhere, adoptive ties or chosen relationships of lasting care as family. Sociologists need to ask which meaning is being used.

Research rules

A study must state how it identifies a family or household. A clear counting rule can support comparison, while leaving some lived relationships outside its categories.

F1

How might a household differ from a family?

F2

Give a fictional example showing why an address alone may miss a meaningful relationship.

F3

Write one question about how a researcher should define family. Retrieve two L003 terms tomorrow and again next week.

Retrieval check for self-study

Complete before the extended response. Cover the key while answering. One mark per correct answer; total 6. Correct insecure ideas and retry tomorrow. Extended writing needs teacher review.

Q1

Which statement describes a perspective?

A A personal preference that cannot be questioned B A framework guiding questions and explanations C A list of facts without connections

Q2

Which question best fits functionalism?

A How may shared routines support social order? B Who inherits productive wealth? C What does one person mean by “home”?

Q3

Which focus is most specifically Marxist?

A All disagreement between friends B The meaning of a nickname C Class, ownership and economic interests

Q4

What is a careful feminist question?

A Why are all families identical? B How is unpaid care organised by gender? C Why can women never exercise agency?

Q5

Which approach foregrounds negotiated meaning?

A A claim that biology decides every role B A population total alone C Interactionism

Q6

What best tests a theoretical explanation?

A Relevant evidence that could challenge as well as support it B Repeating the theory’s name C One invented example treated as proof

Self-marking key

Q1: B. Q2: A. Q3: C. Q4: B. Q5: C. Q6: A.