

Subject: GCSE Sociology

Exam Board: AQA

Date of exam: Sociology Paper 1- **May 8, 2026**, Sociology Paper 2 - **May 15, 2026**

Revision Strategies:

Students should be reminded that reading through the workbooks/highlighting the workbooks is **not** effective revision and will not help them to learn the content.

Students must ensure they use the **revision checklists** provided by teachers; to help them compartmentalise their revision and ensure they cover all content.

The most effective revision involves **self-testing**; this can be achieved by:

Revision cards for Key Terms & Theorists

- Use apps like Quizlet or physical flashcards (Physical cards are preferable)
- Include definitions, key studies, and theorist names (e.g. Durkheim, Parsons, Marx).
- Students should create revision cards which have a **question/key term on one side and an answer/definition on the other**. These should be **created throughout the course**, as students learn the information.

Students should **test themselves** on these questions/definitions, creating separate piles for the ones they got right and wrong.

They should **revisit the 'wrong' pile** until there are none left.

Understanding **key terminology** is essential in Sociology, so students should make a revision card for every key term they learn. (All the **subject specific terminology** is available on the AQA website – the link for this is provided on the next page).

Blurting AND self-assessing

Review the Material: Start by reading your notes or workbook / Knowledge Organiser to familiarise yourself with the content.

What is *Blurting*?

Blurting is a memory recall technique where students:

- Write down everything they can remember about a topic **without looking at notes**.
- Focus on key concepts, sociological theories, studies, and terminology.
- Do this quickly and freely—hence the term “blurting.”

Benefits:

- Reveals what students *actually* know.
- Highlights gaps in understanding.
- Encourages active recall, which strengthens memory.

Self-assessing involves:

- Comparing the blurred content to class notes, revision guides, or mark schemes.
- Identifying missing points, inaccuracies, or weak explanations.
- Using a checklist or mark scheme to score or annotate the blurring attempt.

Benefits:

- Helps students understand exam expectations.
- Encourages metacognition (thinking about their own learning).
- Builds exam technique by aligning answers with assessment objectives.

How to Use Blurring + Self-Assessment Together

1. **Choose a Topic / Exam (12 Markers would work well here)**
e.g., Education, Families, Crime and Deviance, Social Stratification
2. **Blurt It Out**
 - Set a timer (e.g., 10 minutes).
 - Write everything you remember—definitions, theories, studies, examples.
3. **Self-Assess**
 - Use a mark scheme or revision checklist.
 - Highlight missing or incorrect information.
 - Add corrections in a different colour.
4. **Repeat Regularly**
 - Revisit the same topic after a few days.
 - Track improvement over time.

Essay plans

Students must be prepared for **12-mark essays**, they will have 4 of these in each of their 2 papers and make up nearly 50 % of total marks available.

Students will be given an **essay planning book** in Year 11, which includes a variety of past and possible essay questions, for them to practice structuring and answering. These plans include prompts and will be set as homework in terms 3 & 4.

Past papers (Link available on the next page)

Students can use past papers as a powerful tool to prepare for their exams in several strategic ways. Here's how:

1. Understand the Exam Format - This reduces anxiety and builds confidence by removing surprises on exam day.

Past papers help students become familiar with:

The structure of the paper (e.g., Paper 1 and Paper 2)

Types of questions (e.g., multiple choice, short answer, extended writing)

The distribution of marks

2. Practice Exam Technique

Working through past papers allows students to:

Practice time management under timed conditions

Learn how to structure answers effectively, especially for 12-mark questions

Identify command words like *describe*, *explain*, *evaluate*, and *assess*

3. Identify Key Topics and Trends

By reviewing multiple papers, students can spot:

- Frequently recurring topics
- Common sociological theories and perspectives that are often tested
- Patterns in how questions are phrased

4. Self-Assessment and Feedback

Students can:

- Mark their own answers using official mark schemes
- Compare their responses to exemplar answers
- Reflect on areas of strength and weakness
- Teachers can also use past papers for mock exams or peer marking activities.

5. Reinforce Revision

Past paper questions can be used to:

- Test knowledge after revising a topic
- Create flashcards or mind maps based on common questions
- Practice applying sociological concepts and evidence

Tips for Effective Use

- Start with untimed practice, then move to timed conditions.
- Use mark schemes to understand what examiners are looking for.
- Don't just memorize answers—focus on understanding concepts.
- Mix papers from different years to avoid overfamiliarity.

Useful websites and resources:

The workbooks provided by the school are the most helpful revision resources, and students should use these first and foremost.

Knowledge organisers contain lots of key concepts and importantly summaries of all **25 Key studies** that students will need to be familiar with

Other resources:

AQA Website – Past Papers

[GCSE Sociology 8192 | Assessment Resources | AQA](#)

AQA Website –

[AQA | Command words](#)

AQA Website –

[Subject Specific Vocabulary](#)

Key studies (these are also in your knowledge organisers)

[GCSE Sociology 8192 | Specification | Appendix B Texts And Summaries | AQA](#)



Revision guide

AQA GCSE 9-1 Sociology All-in-One Complete Revision and Practice: Ideal for the 2026 and 2027 exams (Collins GCSE Grade 9-1 Revision)

(Please note - this book simplifies content quite heavily, so should not be the sole revision resource for students aiming for a 6 or above, the school-provided workbooks are more appropriate for these students.)

This is the **only** revision guide available for this course.

