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| Achieved Status | A position earned or merited, for example, doctor |
| Agencies/agents of social control | Institutions that help to keep individuals in order, according to society, for example, family, schools an police |
| Agencies/agents of socialisation | Institutions that pass on the culture of a society to its members, such as the family and education system |
| Ascribed status | A position born into, not achieved or earned, such as son or daughter |
| Closed questions | Questions that only allow fixed responses such as Yes or No |
| Covert observation | A study where a researcher is secretly watching a group |
| Cross-sectional study | A study or collection of data which captures a moment in time |
| Cultural transmission | The passing on of a society’s culture to its members |
| Culture | A shared, learned way of life. This includes language, customs, beliefs, norms, values and traditions |
| Ethics | Principles around whether an activity, such as research, is morally right or wrong |
| Evidence | The available facts or information indicating whether a belief is true or valid |
| Feral child | A human child who has lived isolated from humans from a very young age and has had little/no experience of human behaviour and languages |
| Formal sources of control/power | Power that is given to individuals and groups allowing them to use sanctions to keep social control |
| Gatekeepers | People that allow researchers access to a sample of people who would otherwise be difficult to study |
| Gender | A role, with norms and expectations of how to act, linked to whether you are male or female. Gender is not the same as biological sex |
| Gender roles | The expected ways of behaving based on whether someone is male or female |
| Hypothesis | A statement or theory that can be tested |
| Identity | The idea you have about who you are. Class, gender, ethnicity, nationality and sexuality might be important parts of a person’s identity |
| Informal sources of control/power | Those are sanctions that people use in everyday life to control others and encourage them to follow social norms |
| Institution | An organisation set up for a particular purpose, for example, schools |
| Judiciary | The legal organisations that enforce the law |
| Longitudinal study | Research which follows a group of people over a long period of time |
| Nationality | Belonging to a particular nation or one ethnic group that forms part of a nation |
| Norms | The expectations or unwritten formal rules surrounding how someone should behave in a particular situation |
| Open questions | Questions that allow the respondent to answer in detail and as fully as they wish |
| Opportunity sample | A study group of people who happen to be available |
| Overt observation | Research whether the observer is known, by the group, to be watching the group |
| Participant observation | Research observation conducted from within the group being studied |
| Pilot study | A trial run before full research is carried out |
| Primary data | Information that the researcher has collected themselves |
| Primary socialisation | The first stage of socialisation that takes place in infancy. The family is the most important agent of primary socialisation |
| Qualitative data | Research data that is in words and has lots of detail, helping to give context |
| Quantitative data | Statistical data that is in numbers and can be presented as graphs and percentages |
| Quota sample | A sampling method where the researcher looks for a certain number of people from particular groups |
| Reliable data | Research results that can be repeated and compared in other contexts |
| Representative sample | A sample that aims to have the same mix of people as the large population |
| Respondent | A person who completes a questionnaire |
| Role | The function assumed or part played by someone or something in a particular situation |
| Role allocation | The way in which jobs are given to people in our society. |
| Role conflict | A situation in which a person has to play two different roles with competing expectations |
| Role model | A person whose behaviour or success is or can be copied by others |
| Sampling frame | The list where a sample is selected from |
| Sanctions | Positive or negative actions taken to encourage people to follow social norms, rules and laws |
| Secondary data | Information used in research that was originally used or collected by somebody else for another purpose |
| Secondary socialisation | The second stage of the socialisation process after early childhood |
| Social class | A way of dividing people into groups. Usually based on their occupation |
| Socialisation | The process by which individuals learn the culture of their society |
| Society | A group of people who share a common territory and culture and who interact with each other as a more or less orderly community |
| Status | The level of importance within society that a person or occupation is seen to have |
| Stereotype | An exaggerated simplified view of a group of people that can cause prejudice and discrimination |
| Stratified random sample | A sample chosen by chance, but making sure that important groups are included |
| Subculture | A small group within society with its own norms and values |
| Systematic sample | Sampling using a system where, for example, every tenth name on a list is chosen |
| Unstructured interview | Where an interview is more free-flowing like a normal conversation |
| Valid data | Research results that get close to the truth of what is happening, and are useful and trustworthy |
| Values | The beliefs and ways of conduct that people and societies see as important and worth striving for and holding onto |

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| Arranged marriage | A marriage in which the bride and groom are chosen for each other by their families. |
| Beanpole family | A particular type of vertically extended family with up to four generations living together or nearby, but with few children. |
| Blended/ reconstituted /step family | A family made up of one or both partners with children from a previous marriage or relationship living with them. |
| Boomerang children | Grown-up children who return to live with their parents as a result of a breakup or because they can’t afford to rent/buy a house. |
| Breadwinner | The person who earns money to support the family, often the only earner. |
| Canalisation | The channelling of children towards toys and activities seen as appropriate for their sex. |
| Civil partnership | A legal relationship for same-sex couples, distinct from marriage but with similar rights and benefits. |
| Cohabitation | A domestic arrangement in which a couple are living together in a relationship as partners, but are unmarried. |
| Conjugal roles | The roles of men and women or same-sex partners in a marriage or other partnership in the home. |
| Consumerism | The preoccupation of people ad society with the acquisition of goods. |
| Divorce rate | The number of divorces per 1000 marriages. |
| Domestic abuse | Controlling or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between people who are or have been partners or family members. The abuse can be physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or financial. |
| Dual burden | The situation for women in which they go out to work and still take on the main responsibility for the housekeeping and childcare. |
| Extended family | A family that consists of relatives in addition to the immediate family, who live together or nearby. |
| Household | The house and its occupants as a unit. A person living on their own or with friends or flatmates is considered to be living in a household rather than a family. |
| Integrated roles | The situation in which the roles between adult partners are similar and duties and responsibilities are similar. |
| Irreducible functions | Talcott Parson’s theory that the family is left with two functions: the primary socialisation of children and the stabilisation of adult personalities. |
| Kinship | People who have ties of blood or marriage. |
| Liberal feminism | A branch of feminism that wants to improve things for women but without making drastic changes in society. |
| Lone-parent family | A family arrangement consisting of one parent (mother or father) with their dependent children. |
| Monogamy | The marriage practice where, in terms of the law, men and women can only have one marriage partner at a time. |
| New man | A new set of ideas about being masculine which appeared in the 80s and 90s. New men were seen to be more emotionally aware and could be involved in childcare, for example. |
| New Right | A theory closely linked to functionalism. The New Right are concerned that society has lost traditional values and think that individuals should take responsibility for themselves. |
| Nuclear family | A family type consisting of two parents and their children. |
| Polygamy | A marriage where one partner is legally allowed to marry several partners at the same time. (Polyandry is the custom where a woman may marry several men at the same time; polygyny is the custom where a man may have several wives at the same time). |
| Privatised nuclear family | A family structure where the nuclear family is separated from its wider kin and has become home centred and inward looking. |
| Radical feminism | A more extreme branch of feminism that believes extensive change is necessary to set women free from patriarchy. |
| Sandwich generation | Middle-aged or older people (usually women) who act as carers for their elderly parents while at the same time providing help and support to their children. |
| Secularisation | The decline in the importance of religion. |
| Segregated roles | The situation in which the roles between adult partners are different and there is a division between men’s and women’s jobs. |
| Symmetrical family | A family where male and female roles are similar but not identical. Both partners contribute to the home and both partners are committed to the family. |
| Triple shift | The term used to refer to a situation where women go out to work and do most of the housework and emotion work. |

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| Academies | State schools in England that receive funding from central government and are independent of local authorities. |
| Correspondence theory | The theory of Bowles and Gintis that school mirrors work and prepares pupils to work in unfulfilling jobs without rebelling. |
| Crisis of masculinity | Male insecurity regarding their identity, believed to be caused by the dwindling of traditional male jobs and the appearance of more independent women. |
| Cultural capital | Advantages that parents can pass on to their children in the form of knowledge, resources and lifestyle choices which help their children to be successful. |
| Cultural deprivation | Being without the experiences or support needed to develop into a successful adult. |
| Formal curriculum | The prescribed set of subjects taught in a school, such as history, sociology and PE. |
| Free schools | A new type of state school, set up by an organisation or group. They receive some funding from central government and are independent of local authorities. |
| Gendering (of subjects) | The presentation of some subjects as either more suitable for girls or for boys. Physics, for example, used to be presented as a boy’s subject. |
| Hidden curriculum | The messages and ideas pupils pick up at school throughout the day that are not taught as part of the official curriculum. |
| Independent schools | Schools that are independent from government control and finance, pupils pay to attend. Private and public schools are independent. |
| Institutional racism | Where an organisation’s culture and methods of operating are found to be racist throughout. |
| Labelling | Often done by a person of higher status and power, attaching a tag to a person. It can have a powerful effect and the label might become accurate. |
| Market principles | Treating schools, for example, like businesses where schools have to compete for pupils and parents ‘go shopping’ for the best school. |
| Material deprivation | Being without goods that you would expect to have in your house, for example, a television or your own bedroom. |
| Meritocracy | A system in which people are rewarded for their ability and hard work by gaining the best jobs, wealth and/or status. The New Right believes that the UK is a meritocracy. |
| Parental aspirations | Parents’ hopes and ambitions for their children’s future. |
| Peer group | A group of people who are of similar age and usually have similar interests. |
| Private school | An independent, fee-paying school. |
| Public school | A high-status private school whose head teacher has been invited to join the Headmasters’ and Headmistresses’ Conference. |
| Racism | The belief that one racial group is superior to others, treating other groups discriminately because of that belief. |
| Role model | A person whose behaviour or success is or can be copied by others, especially by children or younger people. |
| Selection by mortgage | The practice where schools take mainly middle-class pupils whose families can afford to buy a house in the school catchment area. It is claimed that this has replaced selection by ability. |
| Self-fulfilling prophecy | The idea that the labels people are given, often erroneously, will become true. |
| Social capital | The advantages that middle-class parents have, such as knowledge of the school system and the ability to negotiate with teachers. |
| Subculture | A small group within society with its own norms and values. |

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| Age Crime Curve | A graphic representation of statistics that suggest people commit less crime as they get older. |
| Agencies/Agents of Social Control | Institutions that help to keep individuals in order, according to society; for example, family, schools and police. |
| Anomie | A situation when social norms have broken down. |
| Anti-Social Behaviour | Actions that are not necessarily against the law but break social norms and rules and are a nuisance to other people. |
| Bribery | Giving people money in return for them breaking the rules when they are in a position of trust. |
| Chivalry Thesis | The idea that women are treated more favourably by the police and other people in authority. |
| Community Policing | A style of policing in which police officers are highly visible and interactive in an attempt to build good relationships with the community as well as providing a visible deterrent to crime. |
| Conformity | When people behave as they are expected to by social norms. |
| Consumerism | The preoccupation of people and society with the acquisition of goods. |
| Conviction Rates | The number of people from certain groups charged and found guilty of crime. |
| Corporate Crime | Crime committed by big businesses. |
| Criminology | The scientific study of crime and criminal behaviour. |
| Crisis of Masculinity | Male insecurity regarding their identity, believed to be caused by the dwindling of traditional male jobs and the appearance of more independent women. |
| Cybercrime | Crime committed using computer technology. |
| Delinquency | Anti-social behaviour by young people. |
| Demonisation of Women | The idea that women are treated more harshly by the media when they have committed certain crimes that go against the ideas of femininity. |
| Deprivation | Being without the things that are expected in society. |
| Deviancy Amplification | The media making a problem worse through the style of reporting. |
| Deviant Career | The path that a person labelled a criminal follows. |
| Differential Enforcement of Law | The view that the police and courts do not implement laws fairly. |
| Embezzlement | A form of theft in which workers take money from their employers or money that has been given to someone to take care of. |
| Formal Sources of Control/Power | Power that is given to individuals and groups allowing them to use sanctions to keep social control. |
| Fraud | Crime involving telling lies or giving false information. |
| Globalisation | The process whereby different parts of the world are being brought closer together by the exchange of goods, services and communication. This is made possible by new technology. |
| Hate crime | An offence committed against certain people or groups because of ethnicity, religion, disability or sexuality. |
| Hidden Figure of Crime | All the crime that is not known about by the police and government. |
| Informal Sources of Control | These are sanctions that people use in everyday life to control others and encourage them to follow social norms. |
| Institutional Racism | Where an organisation’s culture and methods of operating are found to be racist throughout. |
| Invisible Crime | Crime that is not known about by most people. |
| Judiciary | The legal organisations that enforce the law. |
| Labelling | Often done by a person of higher status and power, attaching a category, type or image to a person. It can have a powerful effect and the label might become accurate. |
| Master Status | A label that is the most important fact that people notice about a person. |
| Moral Panic | The media exaggerating a problem to make it appear as a threat to the whole of society. People or groups affected by moral panics might become ‘folk devils’ feared by society. |
| Negligence | In business, this is when a company does not keep the public or its workers safe through a lack of care. |
| Occupational Crime | A crime connected to your job. |
| Recorded Crime | Crime that has been officially logged by the police. |
| Reported Crime | Crime that the police have been told about. |
| Sanctions (Formal and Informal) | Positive or negative sanctions taken to encourage people to follow social norms, rules and laws. |
| Scapegoat | A person or group blames for society’s problems. Scapegoating diverts attention from real causes. |
| Selective Law Enforcement | Bias in the police against some social groups. |
| Self-Fulfilling Prophecy | The idea that the labels people are given, often erroneously, will become true. |
| Self-Report Study | Research that asks people about the crimes they have committed. |
| Social Control | The means by which order is kept in society. |
| Status Frustration | A person’s anger or dissatisfaction at their position in society. |
| Stigma | A very powerful form of label that is a mark of social shame. |
| Strain Theory | The idea that the pressure to succeed leads people to turn to crime. |
| Street Crime | Crime committed in public places. |
| Subculture | A small group within society with its own norms and values. |
| Typical Offender | The image of a certain type of person who commits crime. |
| Unreported Crime | Crime that the police have not been made aware of. |
| Victim Study | Research that finds out about crimes from the victims. |
| White-Collar Crime | Offences committed by the middle classes, usually linked to their jobs. |
| Zero-Tolerance Policing | A style of policing which is severe on the smallest crimes to prevent bigger ones happening. |

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| Absolute Poverty | The situation when a person does not have basic needs such as food, water, shelter, clothing and other essentials. |
| Achieved Status | A position earned or merited such as captain of a team or doctor. |
| Ageism | Prejudice and/or discrimination based on a person’s age. |
| Ascribed Status | A position born into, not achieved or earned, such as son-daughter. |
| Capitalism | Societies such as the USA and the UK where businesses are owned by individuals. People are paid wages to work for other people. |
| Charismatic Authority | Where a person is followed and respected because of their personality. |
| Communism | An idea of running a society with greater equality where wealth and possessions are shared. Businesses are owned by the community. |
| Conflict Theory | A view of society that sees a struggle between different groups for control. Marxism and Feminism are two of the best examples of this. |
| Consensus Theory | The idea that the people in society share a set of beliefs and aims. Functionalists believe that the parts of society can work together in harmony. |
| Cultural Deprivation | Being without the experiences or support needed to develop into a successful adult. |
| Culture of Poverty | The way of life of the poor. New Right sociologists blame this culture for the poverty of the underclass. |
| Demonisation of Women | The idea that women are treated more harshly by the media when they have committed certain crimes that go against ideas of femininity. |
| Deprivation | Being without the things that are expected in society. |
| Disability/ Disabled | A person is classed as disabled when they are unable long term to do everyday tasks as well as other people, due to a physical or mental impairment. |
| Disability Pay Gap | The difference between what disabled people earn on average compared with non-disabled people. |
| Discrimination | Treating people unfavourably usually based on prejudice because of their appearance or a social group they belong to. |
| Double Standard | A rule or principle that is unfairly applied to different people or groups. |
| Equal Opportunities | The idea that everyone should have the same chances of health, wealth and success. |
| Equality | Fairness in society. This could mean equal opportunities or the way that wealth is shared out. |
| Equality of Outcome | The situation where everyone has the same amount of wealth and opportunities. |
| Ethnic Minorities | Groups within society who have different national or cultural traditions from the main population, for example Asian, Indian, Caribbean or Polish. |
| Ethnicity | The cultural group a person belongs to. It might come from their nationality, religion, language and/or way of life. |
| Ethnicity Pay Gap | The difference between the average wages of ethnic minority people and white British people. |
| Feminism | A conflict theory which sees society as male dominated and wants to change this. There are many types of feminists. |
| Gender | A role, with norms and expectations of how to act, linked to whether you are male or female. Gender is not the same as biological sex. |
| Gender Pay Gap | An unfair pay difference in which women on average are paid less than men. |
| Glass Ceiling | An invisible barrier preventing women from reaching the top positions in life. It is in fact discrimination in the form of sexism holding women back, according to feminists. |
| Globalisation | The process whereby different parts of the world are being brought closer together by the exchange of goods, services and communication. This is made possible by new technology. |
| Hate Crime | An offence committed against certain people or groups because of ethnicity, religion or sexuality. |
| Homophobia | Being prejudiced and discriminatory to people because of their sexuality. |
| Identity | The idea you have about who you are: the characteristics of ‘self’. Class, gender, ethnicity, nationality and sexuality might be important parts of a person’s identity. |
| Inequality | The situation where some people have more wealth and better opportunities and might be seen as more important than others. |
| Institutional Racism | Where an organisation’s culture and methods of operating are found to be racist throughout. |
| Legislation | Laws that are passed by the government. |
| LGBT | Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. |
| Liberal Feminism | A branch of feminism that wants to improve things for women but without making drastic changes in society. |
| Life-Chances | The opportunities people have of enjoying the good things in life and avoiding the unpleasant things. |
| Lifestyle | The quality of life and way of life that people have including housing, work, leisure and possessions. |
| Marginalisation | The non-inclusive positioning of some groups on the edge of society. This could be due to poverty and/or prejudice. |
| Material Deprivation | Being without goods that you would expect to have in your house, for example, a television, your own bedroom. |
| Medical Model | A view of disability as a problem with the disabled person that needs to be ‘fixed’, for example through surgery, medication or the use of a wheelchair. |
| Meritocracy | A system in which people are rewarded for their ability and hard work by gaining the best jobs, wealth and/or status. The New Right believes that the UK is a meritocracy. |
| Nationality | Belonging to a particular nation or one ethnic group that forms part of a nation. |
| Patriarchy | A male-dominated society: men are in charge and expected to be in charge of important institutions. |
| Power | The ability of a person or group to get what they want and influence decisions. |
| Prejudice | A view of a person based on their physical characteristics rather than knowing them as an individual. An example would be expecting a young person wearing a hoodie to be a trouble-maker. |
| Privilege | Special advantages that some individuals or groups gain. Attending private school might bring privileges. Feminists say that being male brings privilege. |
| Quality of Life | The standard of a person’s life in terms of health, happiness and lifestyle. |
| Racism | The belief that one racial group is superior to others; treating other groups discriminately because of that belief. |
| Radical Feminism | A more extreme branch of feminism that believes extensive change is needed to set women free from patriarchy. |
| Rational-Legal Authority | The right to make decisions based on logical and well-organised systems, for example general elections in the UK. |
| Reasonable Adjustments | The changes workplaces, schools and public places are expected to make to allow disabled people opportunities to take a full part in society. |
| Relative Poverty | Being poor compared with other people. For example, families without television or internet access could be seen as living in relative poverty. |
| Scapegoat | A person or group blamed for society’s problems. Scapegoating diverts attention from real causes. |
| Sexism | The belief that males or females are superior to each other. |
| Social Class | A way of dividing people into groups. This is usually based on their occupation. In the UK there are three main social classes: upper, middle and working class. |
| Social Differentiation | The distinctions between different groups in society, for example, class, gender, ethnicity and age. |
| Social Exclusion | Where a group is not able to take full part in society. They are left out of important aspects of life. |
| Social Inclusion | The attempt to include all people fully in society. |
| Social Mobility | The movement of individuals up and down the stratification system. |
| Social Model of Disability | A view of disability which sees it as the responsibility of society to include disabled people. |
| Standard of Living | The level of wealth and comfort someone has. |
| Stigma | A very powerful form of label that is a mark of social shame and disgrace. |
| Stratification | Seeing the inequalities in society as different layers, like the different layers of rock or those in trifle. |
| Stratified Diffusion | The process whereby the way of life of those at the top of the class structure filters down to those below. |
| Traditional Authority | A person’s right to rule or make decisions based on long-established customs. |
| Transgender | A term used to describe people who are uncomfortable with the gender that they were born with. |
| Underclass | A group that is lower in status than the working class, for example homeless people and other disadvantaged groups. |
| Welfare State | The idea that the government should look after its people in terms of education, health and wellbeing. |