

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments ix
About the Authors x

01



SOCIOLOGY An Introduction to the Sociological Imagination 2

Get the Topic: **What is Sociology?** 5

Sociology Defined 5
Developing a Sociological Imagination 5
Emile Durkheim's Theory on Suicide 6
 Individual Choice and Social Forces 7
Sociology in Australia 7
Careers in Sociology 8
 Key Terms 10
 Sample Test Questions 10
 Further Reading 11
 References 11
 Photo Credits 11

02



SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY An Introduction to the Theoretical Foundations of Sociology 12

Get the Topic: **Why Theory?** 14

Think Sociologically: **What are the Characteristics of the
Three Major Sociological Paradigms?** 15

The Functionalist's Worldview 17
 Herbert Spencer 17 • Emile Durkheim 18 • Talcott
 Parsons 18 • Robert Merton 19 • Criticisms of
 Functionalism 20
The Conflict Theorist's Worldview 20
 Karl Marx 21 • Raewyn Connell 22 • Pierre Bourdieu 22 •
 Criticisms of Conflict Theory 23
The Symbolic Interactionist's Worldview 23
 George Herbert Mead 23 • Herbert Blumer 25 • Erving
 Goffman 25 • Howard S. Becker 25 • Criticisms of
 Symbolic Interactionism 25
How Are the Three Paradigms Interrelated? 27
The Problem with Paradigms 28
 Giddens' Theory of Structuration 28 • Applying Sociological
 Theories 29

Wrap Your Mind Around the Theory 30

Theory 31
Key Terms 31
Sample Test Questions 31
Further Reading 32
References 32
Photo Credits 33

03



SOCIAL CLASS IN AUSTRALIA Stratification in a Modern Society 34

Stratification in Australian Society 37

Get the Topic: **What is Social Stratification?** 39

Social Stratification 39
 Distribution of Wealth 39 • Power 40 • Prestige 40 • Class
 Structure in Australia 41 • Neighbourhoods and Social
 Class 45 • Education and Social Class 45 • Health and
 Social Class: Fats and Fictions 46

Social Mobility 46

Think Sociologically: **What are the Theories Behind
Social Stratification?** 47

Functionalism 47
Conflict Theory 47
Symbolic Interactionism 48
 Neo-Liberalism 49

Wrap Your Mind Around the Theory 50

Theory 51
Key Terms 51
Sample Test Questions 52
Further Reading 52
References 52
Photo Credits 53

04



RACE AND ETHNIC STRATIFICATION Is it a Question of Colour? 54

Get the Topic: **What is the Difference Between Race
and Ethnicity?** 57

Race vs. Ethnicity 57
 Census Definitions 58 • Majority and Minority Groups 58
 • Racism 59 • Patterns of Interaction 60 • Prejudice
 vs. Discrimination 63 • Causes of Prejudice and
 Discrimination 63

Racial Stratification in Australia 63

 Employment and Income 65 • Education 65 • Housing 65

Think Sociologically: **What Causes Racist Attitudes, and
How do these Attitudes Affect People?** 65

Symbolic Interactionism: Colour-Blind Racism 65
 Multiculturalism 67

Wrap Your Mind Around the Theory 70

Theory 71
Key Terms 71
Sample Test Questions 72
Further Reading 72
References 72
Photo Credits 73

05



SEX AND GENDER The Social Side of Sex 74

Get the Topic: **What is the Difference Between Sex and Gender?** 76

Gender vs. Sex 76

Gender Construction 77

Patriarchy and Sexism 78

Gender Roles 78

Gender Roles and the Media 78 • The Fluidity of Gender Roles: Indonesia's Bugis People 79

Gender and Inequality 80

Gender and Education 80 • Gender and the Workplace 82 • Gender and Politics 82

Feminism 83

First-Wave Feminism 84 • Second-Wave Feminism 84 • Third-Wave Feminism 84

Think Sociologically: **What are the Perspectives on Gender and Gender Inequality?** 84

Feminist Theory 84

Liberal vs. Radical Feminism 85

Functionalism 85

Conflict Theory 86

Symbolic Interactionism 86

Social Policy—Stopping Sexual Harassment and Gender Violence 86

Wrap Your Mind Around the Theory 87

Theory 88

Key Terms 88

Sample Test Questions 89

Further Reading 89

References 90

Photo Credits 90

06



AGE AND AGEING The Greying of Society 92

Get the Topic: **What is the Relationship Between Age, Ageing and Society?** 95

Age, Ageing and Society 95

Life Stages: A Developmental Approach to Ageing 96

• Generation: A Socio-Historical Approach to Ageing 96

• Critique of the 'Life Stage' and 'Generation'

Approaches 96 • The Transition from Childhood to Adulthood 96

Ageing: Our Greying Population 100

Ageing and Demographic Change 101 • Life

Expectancy 101 • Origins of the Baby Boomers 101 •

Gender and Ageing: Where are the Men? 103

Concerns about Ageing 104

Biological Changes 104 • Ageism 104

Think Sociologically: **What Theories Exist About the Ageing Process?** 104

Functionalism—Disengaging from Society 104

Symbolic Interactionism—Living an Active Lifestyle 104

Conflict Theory—Ageing and Inequality 105

Wrap Your Mind Around the Theory 106

Theory 107

Key Terms 107

Sample Test Questions 107

Further Reading 108

References 108

Photo Credits 109

07



CRIME AND THE LEGAL SYSTEM

How do Societies Respond to Crime and Deviance? 110

Get the Topic: **What is Crime?** 112

Deviance vs. Crime 112

What is Deviance? 113 • Crime and the Media 114 • Crime Statistics 114 • Crime Trends 116 • Societal Responses to Crime and Deviance 119

Think Sociologically: **Why Does Crime Exist?** 120

Historical Roots of Deviance and Crime Theories 120

The Positivist School 121 • Biological Perspectives on

Crime and Deviance 121 • The Classical School 121 •

Psychological Perspectives on Crime and Deviance 121

Functional Explanations of Crime and Deviance 122

Theory of Anomie 122

Social Interaction Theories 122

Differential Association Theory 122 • Social Control Theories 122

Symbolic Interactionist Theory 123

Labelling Theory 123

Social Conflict Theory 123

General Theories of Crime Causation 123

Prison and the Characteristics of Prison Inmates 123

Rural Crime 124

Wrap Your Mind Around the Theory 126

Theory 127

Key Terms 127

Sample Test Questions 128

Further Reading 128

References 129

Photo Credits 130

08



EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

From the Classroom to the Workforce 132

Get the Topic: How do Individuals Learn to Become Productive Members of Society? 134

Education in Society 134

Roots of Modern Education Systems 135 • Peers and the Production of 'Normal' Citizens 136 • Educational Discrepancies in Ethnicity and Gender 136 • Teacher Expectancy and Attainment 139 • Academic Achievement 140 • Motivations and Determinations in the Pursuit of Higher Education 141 • Employment 142

Think Sociologically: How do Sociologists View the Shift to Mass Higher Education? 144

Symbolic Interactionism 144

Functionalism 144

Conflict Theory 144

Wrap Your Mind Around the Theory 145

Theory 146

Key Terms 146

Sample Test Questions 147

Further Reading 147

References 147

Photo Credits 149

09



MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

How Do Societies Perpetuate Themselves? 150

Get the Topic: What is a Family? 152

Marriage and Family 152

Forms of Marriage and Family 152 • Trends of the Australian Family 154 • Domestic and Family Violence 156 • Phases of the Family 157

Think Sociologically: Is the Family in Decline? 161

Symbolic Interactionism 161

Conflict Theory 161

Functionalism 162

Decline of the Family 162

Wrap Your Mind Around the Theory 163

Theory 164

Key Terms 164

Sample Test Questions 165

Further Reading 165

References 165

Photo Credits 167

10



THE BODY, HEALTH AND ILLNESS

A Weight on Australia's Shoulders 168

Get the Topic: How Does Health Affect Stratification? 170

Health Defined 170

Social Epidemiology 170

Think Sociologically: Is Medicine Making us Sick? 173

The Medicalisation of Society 173

Social Constructionism 174

Health in Australia: Living off the Fat of the Land 175

Childhood Obesity 175 • Stigmatisation of the Obese 176 • Obesity and Ethnicity 176

Health Care 176

The Uninsured 176 • Costs of Services 176

Health Care and the Elderly—Medicare 177

Life Expectancy 178

Wrap Your Mind Around the Theory 180

Theory 181

Key Terms 181

Sample Test Questions 182

Further Reading 182

References 182

Photo Credits 184

11



GLOBALISATION

The Economy and Society 186

Get the Topic: What is Globalisation? 188

The History of Globalisation 189

Australia in a Globalised World 190

The Components of Globalisation 191

Global Culture 191 • Global Economy 191 • Global Regulation 192 • The Global Financial Crisis 193

The Effects of Globalisation 194

Global Integration and McDonaldisation 194 • Creolisation 195 • Cosmopolitanism 195 • Uneven Development and Corporate Control 196 • Global Inequality and De-Peasantisation 196

Globo-Enthusiasts and Globo-Sceptics 197

Confronting Globalisation 197

Anti-Globalisation 197 • Alter-Globalisation 197

The Future of Globalisation 198

Economy and Society 198

Capitalism 198 • Socialism 197 • Social Systems 199 • Caste Systems 199 • Class Systems 199

Think Sociologically: How Do Sociologists Theorise Global Inequality? 200

Functionalism 200

Conflict Theory 201

Symbolic Interactionism 201

Wrap Your Mind Around the Theory 202

Theory 203

Key Terms 203

Sample Test Questions 204

Further Reading 204

References 205

Photo Credits 206

12



CULTURE A Framework for the Individual 208

Get the Topic: **What is Culture?** 210

Non-material Culture 211

Symbols 211 • Language 211 • Gesture 212 • Values 212 • Norms and Sanctions 213

Material Culture 214

The Value of Objects 214 • Commodification and Mass Consumption 214 • Popular Culture and Everyday Life 215

The Cultural Industries 215

Producing Texts 216 • Culture and Urban Redevelopment 217

Technology and Cultural Change 219

Is Our Culture Becoming a Technopoly? 219 • Global Village 219

The Study of Culture 219

Ethnocentrism and Cultural Relativism 220 • Cultural Lag and Culture Shock 221 • Ideal vs. Real Culture 221 • Multiculturalism and Assimilation 221 • Cultural Epochs 221

Think Sociologically: **How Do Sociologists View Subculture?** 222

Functionalism 222

Conflict Theory 222

Symbolic Interactionism 223

Applying the Theory: The Case of Schoolies 223

Wrap Your Mind Around the Theory 224

Theory 225

Key Terms 225

Sample Test Questions 226

Further Reading 226

References 226

Photo Credits 227

13



RELIGION Is Society Losing Faith? 228

Get the Topic: **What is Religion?** 230

Types of Religion 230

Forms of Religion 232

Religion in Society 232

Religion and the Economy 233

Karl Marx 233 • Religion, Capitalism and Weber 233

Changes in Religion 233

Religion in the United States 233 • The Decline of Universal Truth 234

Consuming Religion in Late Modernity 234

Popular Culture and Religion 236

Jediism: May the Force Be With You 237

Think Sociologically: **How Does Religion Affect Society?** 237

Symbolic Interactionism 237

Functionalism 238

Conflict Theory 238

Wrap Your Mind Around the Theory 239

Theory 240

Key Terms 240

Sample Test Questions 241

Further Reading 242

References 242

Photo Credits 242

14



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS How Do Societies Connect with Nature? 244

Get the Topic: **What is Environmental Sustainability?** 246

The Natural Environment 246

Sociology and the Environment 247

The Key Environmental Issues Facing the Planet 248

Resource Depletion 248 • Species Decline 249 • Waste and Pollution 250 • Climate Change 251 • Food Security 252

Ecologically Sustainable Development 254

Think Sociologically: **What Will Rescue the Environment?** 254

Solutions 254

Technological Solutions 254 • Market Mechanisms 255 • People, Communities and Governments 255

Population and the Environment 256

Malthusian Theory 257 • Demographic Transition Theory 257 • What is the Sustainable Level for Australia's Population? 258

Social Movements 259

Stages of Social Movements 259 • Types of Social Movements 259

The Environmental Movement 261

The Future of the Environmental Movement 261

Wrap Your Mind Around the Theory 262

Theory 263

Key Terms 263

Sample Test Questions 264

Further Reading 265

References 265

Photo Credits 267

15



SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH How Do We Learn about

Society 268

Get the Topic: **What Are Research Methods?** 270

Think Sociologically: **How Do Sociologists Use Research Methods?** 271

Quantitative and Qualitative Methods 271

Objectivity 272

Variables 272

Cause and Correlation 272

Scientific Method: What Are the Six Steps of Social Research? 273

Field Research 275 • Measures of Central Tendency 276 • Evaluating Data 277 • How to Read a Table 277 • Ethical Concerns 278 • Humphreys' Ethics 278

Triangulation 279

Research Methods and the Three Paradigms 279

Key Terms 280

Sample Test Questions 281

Further Reading 281

References 281

Photo Credits 282

Glossary 283

Index 289