The background of the image is a close-up of a handwriting practice sheet. It features multiple rows of blue horizontal lines, with a dashed midline. Various letters in a cursive script are shown in dark brown ink, each with small black arrows and numbers indicating the correct stroke order and direction. Visible letters include 'Aa', 'Ee', 'Ii', 'Jj', 'Kk', 'Ll', 'Nn', 'Oo', 'Pp', 'Rr', 'Ss', 'Tt', 'Uu', 'Vv', 'Ww', 'Xx', and 'Yy'.

Sociology Literacy Handbook

AS

Why do we need to know about literacy in sociology?

Sociology is an **essay based** subject – you will be tested on your ability to write about the theories/concepts we learn about.

Your essays will be **marked** on your ability to write clearly and in detail; if you can express your knowledge well in written form then you will get better grades.

Sociology also involves a lot of sociological **research** – you need to be able to read quickly and efficiently so you can pick out the most important information relevant to the topic we are learning.

To be successful in sociology, you need to use the following things effectively in your written work:

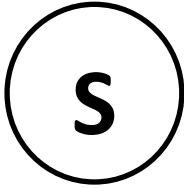
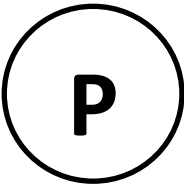
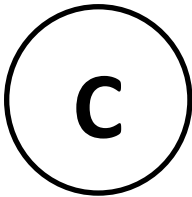
Vocabulary – accurate use of key words and sociological terminology.

Connectives – used to link your points together effectively so they flow in an argument rather than a list of points.

Openers – using sentence openers to create a debate out of your AO2 evaluative points.

Punctuation – accurate and complex use of punctuation to clearly present your knowledge.

Literacy Marking Symbols

Symbol	What this symbol means
	<p><u>Spelling error:</u></p> <p>This would indicate that a word is spelt incorrectly on that line.</p> <p>The teacher may correct the specific word or allow the student to identify corrections. The student should then write the correct word on top of the incorrect spelling.</p>
	<p><u>Punctuation error:</u></p> <p>Indicates that punctuation is missing or a mistake has been made.</p> <p>The teacher may correct the error or allow the student to identify corrections. The student should then add the correct punctuation where it should be on that line.</p>
	<p><u>Capital letter error:</u></p> <p>Indicates a missing or incorrect use of a capital letter.</p> <p>The teacher may correct the error or allow the student to identify corrections. The student should then change the letter on that line.</p>
NP	<p><u>New paragraph:</u></p> <p>Indicates that a new paragraph is needed. The student should identify where the new paragraph should begin using //.</p>
WW	<p><u>Wrong word:</u></p> <p>Indicates that the student has used the wrong word.</p> <p>The teacher may correct the specific word or allow the student to identify corrections. The student should then write the correct word on top of the incorrect one.</p>

Connectives Map

Adding

and also
as well as
moreover too

Comparing

equally in the same way similarly
likewise as with like
compared with

Cause and effect

because so therefore
thus consequently as a result of

Illustrating

for example such as for instance
as revealed by in the case of
as shown by

Sequencing

next then
finally meanwhile after
firstly, secondly, thirdly...

Qualifying

however although unless
except if despite
as long as yet apart from

Contrasting

whereas instead of alternatively
otherwise unlike in contrast
on the other hand

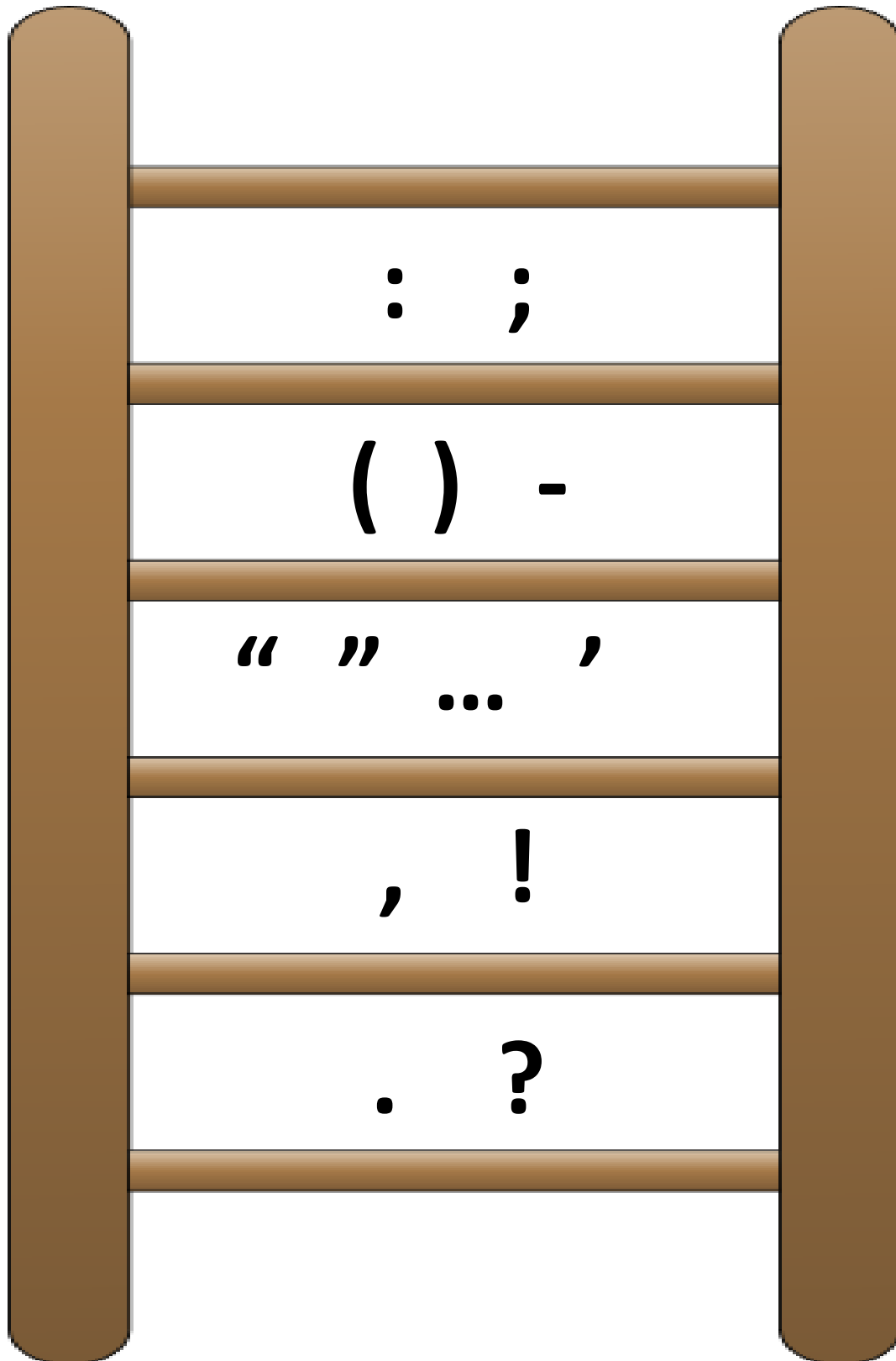
Emphasising

above all in particular especially
significantly indeed notably
most of all

Punctuation Ladder

You should aim to use each punctuation mark at least once per essay.

You should aim to cover symbols higher on the ladder where appropriate.

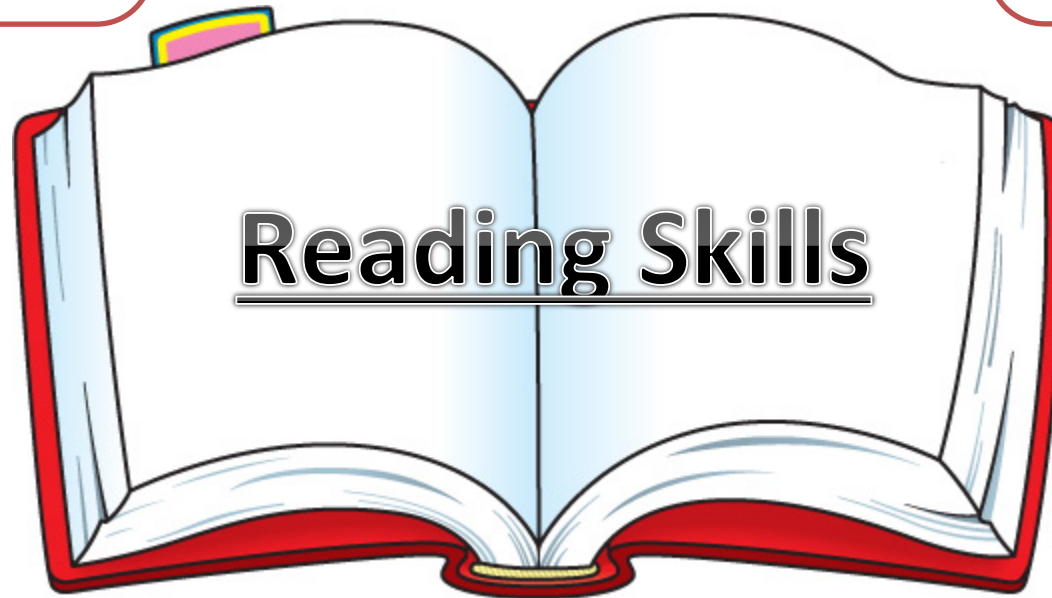


Continuous Reading

Left to right and every word
Absorbing the meaning as you
go

Skim reading

Left to right quickly
Only want the main ideas



Scan Reading

Any direction on the page
Use to find answers and
information quickly in a text

Close Reading

Used with scanning
Combine the most important
information from the text with
knowledge you already have

Key Question Terms

IDENTIFY

OUTLINE

SUGGEST

Give, summarise, and briefly explain a point

e.g.

Identify 3 reasons for an increasing divorce rate (6)

Outline three ways that gender may impact on educational attainment (6)

Suggest 3 factors that have led to an ageing population (6)

DEFINE

EXPLAIN

Explain what is meant by a key concept

e.g.

Define what sociologists mean by cultural capital (2)

ESSAYS

OUTLINE and EXPLAIN }

Make a point and fully explain with examples and evaluation

e.g. Outline and explain two reasons for gender differences in subject choice (10)

EVALUATE

Apply evidence that supports and challenges a debate.

You must demonstrate AO1 (Knowledge and understanding)

But more marks are available for AO2/AO3 (Interpretation, application, analysis and evaluation)

ALMOST ALWAYS INVOLVES DIFFERENT SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES

e.g.

Evaluate the claim that the family remains an oppressive patriarchal institution (20)

Evaluate the claim that social class remains the biggest indicator of educational success in society today (20)

Evaluate the problems of using participant observation in research (16)

Using Sentence Openers to Make Points Effective

Use the sentence openers below in your evaluations to make them more effective.

A study/evidence which
supports...

These findings support the
theory/model because...

A study/evidence which
refutes/challenges...

These findings challenge
the theory/model
because...

These findings are supported
by...

This is a strength of the
argument/model/theory

These findings are
contradicted by...

This is a weakness of the
argument/model/theory
because...

In addition...

On the
contrary...

On the other
hand...

Likewise...

In support of...

Alternatively...

Similarly...

In contrast...

However...

PEEL(E)ing apart your essay

Education: Evaluate the claim that material factors have the most significant impact on the educational attainment of lower class students (20 marks)

Family: Evaluate the claim that the increase in the divorce rate over the last 60 years is a result of changes in the law. (20marks)

For your question, identify at least 6 points

Evidence to support	Evidence to challenge

Introductions

Use the introduction to **break down what the question is** asking you;

- **Define any key terms** it mentions - Material factors
- Is there a **theory** it is talking about? - EG Marxism / Functionalism / New Right. Define the theory.
- If statistics are involved, what is the **key trend or pattern** in this area? - EG Rising / Falling / Steady / High / low



Now **PEEL(E)** the question apart

You need to do the following for the majority of your points

P POINT	Make a statement	Material factors may greatly impact on a child's educational attainment due to poor conditions in the home...
E EXPLAIN	What do sociologists mean by this?	This is because a damp, overcrowded home may cause health problems for students from a lower class background. This may mean that they have time off school due to illness, or may struggle to complete homework if there is nowhere to do this in the home.
		Key words – This means...
		Is there a theory that can be linked?
E EXAMPLE	evidence from stats or a relevant example from studies	For example, Smith and Noble would agree with this as they believe that material factors are more of an issue for lower class students today than in the past. A student and their family could have high aspirations for attainment but they don't have the conditions at home to support them with this.
		Keys words - for example...
L LINK	to the question and next paragraph	This shows that material factors are significant in educational attainment. Education is not as free as it may first appear and there are wide class differences between working class and middle class achievement.
		Keys words – This shows...

EVALUATE	Can you challenge or support the point you have just made (with evidence)	<p>However, sociologists such as Bordieu would argue that material capital is irrelevant if a child lacks cultural capital. A knowledge of how to play the educational system is essential to educational success and middle class parents are more likely to have this as well as greater material resources.</p> <p>Key words – However, on the other hand, challenge/support for this point...</p>
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Conclusion starters

Your conclusion **should address the essay question directly** (weigh up all the evidence/theories) **and answer the question. E.g.**

- To a large/a small / some extent sociologists agree because...
- To sum up it would appear that many/some sociologists agree/disagree...
- In conclusion it would seem that most/few sociologists agree/disagree...

Could another argument be added? E.g. Some sociologists would argue this question is no longer relevant because...

AS Sociology

Sample 20 mark question WAGOLL (what a good one looks like)

Evaluate the Marxist view of the role of education (20 marks)

Marxists view society as based on conflict. They believe that the role of all institutions in society can be understood in terms of how they relate to the economic system. They therefore see the education system as an institution which reproduces the class system and provides the economy with a suitable workforce.

The labour force needs professional and managerial workers, as well as skilled and unskilled manual workers. According to Marxists, the role of the education system is to provide workers for every part of the economy.

Support for this Marxist view comes from Bowles and Gintis who highlight a strong correspondence between what is learnt in schools and what is required in workers for the Capitalist system. **This means** that the education system mirrors the workplace. **For example**, they found that in school the pupils who succeed the most are obedient and unquestioning, rather than independent and inquisitive. Bowles and Gintis believe that these qualities are valued in workers as they will accept the authority of their employers, and not question their orders.

Bowles and Gintis believe that the content of the curriculum is not very important and that pupils learn most from the 'hidden curriculum', that is; the experience of being in school e.g. getting used to doing boring things for the reward of the qualification etc. **This shows** that Marxists believe the role of the education system is purely to work in favour of capitalism and provide the most productive and passive workers who will follow orders and make profit for the bourgeoisie.

However Bowles and Gintis have been criticised mainly because they did not actually conduct any research in schools. Also **some critics question** how the Capitalist system survived before the introduction of the Education system, as in the past only U.C children would have the experience of attending school.

Further support for this Marxist view comes from Willis. Willis studied a group of 12 working class boys during the last year of their education and the first few months of their employment. He used qualitative methods of observation, diaries and group interviews. He found that these working class boys adopted a counter school culture. **This means that** they did not believe education had anything to offer them and therefore did not work. Through this culture they disadvantaged themselves and ended up in working class jobs. **This supports the Marxist theory because** Willis believed this counter school culture was unique to the working class, so although the lads were actively failing themselves this was a result of their low status position in society. **Again, this shows** the inequalities in the education system according to Marxists.

A major challenge to the Marxist theory of education comes from Functionalists who believe that the education system is based on a meritocracy. Durkheim and Parsons argue that **this means** those who are the most talented and hardworking will be identified by the education system and rewarded with qualifications. This will enable them to access high positions in society. **This challenges Marxists because** Functionalists believe that this will happen no matter what your class position is, **therefore** working class people can succeed in education and obtain a high status position in society as long as they are hardworking and talented. **A counter criticism to this is** that the majority of working class school children today do not experience great social mobility. Also, there are clear examples of members of the working class being successful and accessing higher positions. Also you could argue that it is very difficult to discriminate when all pupils must be taught the same National Curriculum. With the decline in manual jobs in society you could also argue that the correspondence between education and work is not as clear as it was.

In conclusion, it is clear from looking at evidence from the Marxist theory that there are certain qualities that are encouraged within education today which could be interpreted as supporting the Capitalist system. Encouraging children to accept authority and not expect to enjoy the process of education, prepares them for their future within the workforce where they will accept their alienation and work only for external rewards.