**Writing a theory question in paper 1 and paper 3**

In the education exam (paper 1) and crime exam (paper 3) you could be asked to answer questions about sociological theories. These could take the form of:

**10 MARK THEORY QUESTIONS**

Outline and explain two [insert theory] concepts [10]

Outline and explain two arguments to suggest [insert theory] might have little to contribute to our understanding of society today [10]

Outline two reasons for the growth of globalisation [10]

Outline and explain two [insert theory] view of the nature of society today [10]

Outline and explain two criticisms of [insert theory]

Outline and explain two ways [insert theory] views social inequality today [10] – really similar to a stratification

The expectation with these questions is to use content from across all of your topics. It means there is a lot of variability in what you can write and you can use material from pretty much anywhere.

These 10 mark questions take the same format as every other one you do. They need a clearly stated point, which is explained with evidence (named people, contemporary examples, concepts) and then briefly evaluated.

**20 MARK ESSAY QUESTIONS – IN PAPER 3**

These questions have an item and will get you to do several possible things:

Evaluate the approach of a particular theory

Evaluate the contribution a theory has made to our understanding of society

Evaluate the view that conflict approaches are more useful than consensus approaches (or visa versa)

Evaluate the view that action/micro approaches are more useful than structural/macro approaches

Evaluate the contribution of modernist theories [functionalism/marxism] as compared to postmodern approaches

These questions need an introduction that clearly outlines the debate in the essay and then a range of paragraphs (suggestion of 3) that compare the approach/es in the question. Come to a conclusion. They need you to show a clear understanding of key concepts within the theory and theoretical approaches e.g. consensus vs conflict views, structure vs action, modernity vs postmodernity.

Approaches could include:

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| **Using topics** | **Using themes from within the theory** |
| Doing a paragraph on a topic and evaluate within the topic. Pick three topics as your paragraphs and then do an additional paragraph that discusses general issues and concerns. | Each paragraph becomes a key idea from the theory that you then evaluate with issues/problems from other theories. This can draw across topics. |