**Stratification revision checklist**

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| **Topic** | **Sub-topic** | **Key Concepts/ studies to Cover** | **Covered**  **Yes/No** |
| **Social Inequality**  (It is important that you are generally aware of the six main sociological views of social inequality. Note: Some of these theories specifically relate to with gender, class, ethnicity, disability and age. – you MUST be aware of these connections to do well especially in the 20 mark essays  Ensure you’re aware of criticisms too | **Functionalism** (consensus theory) | **Durkheim:**   * Meritocracy * Divisions of Labour * Anomie   **Parsons:**   * Meritocracy * Inequality and social difference functional and inevitable feature of social systems. |  |
| **Marxism** (conflict theory) | **Marx:**   * Social inequality exists due to the economic structure of society. (Capitalism)   **Althusser:**   * Ideological State Apparatus – state controls proletariat thoughts. * “Meritocracy is a myth” |  |
| **Neo-Marxism** (Core principle of Marxism but relate to contemporary society.) | * Exploitation, oppression, class struggle and conflict are relevant in understanding social inequality. * Focus on understanding changing nature of the middle class.   **Bourdieu:**   * Social Capital * Cultural Capital * Economic Capital |  |
| **Weberianism**  (Agreed with Marx that ownership of property and capital were important dimensions of privilege in society – but not the only dimensions.) | **Weber:**  Social inequality was the product of three dimensions:   * Class (economic dimensions) * Status (A persons social standing) * Party (Political dimensions and issues of power) |  |
| **Feminism** | **First Wave Feminism** (suffrage mvmt – early 20th C)  **Second Wave Feminism**   * **Liberal** (equality of opportunity) * **Marxis**t (Economic Aspects of gender inequality) * **Radical** (Inequality caused by patriarchy) * **Black (**Ethnicity and Gender) * **Post** (Response to what 2nd wave feminism has achieved) |  |
| **Post modernism** (No single view on social inequality and difference) | * Questions relevance of theories explanations that try to explain diverse contemporary societies. * Multiple identities mean that C,A,G,E dimensions are no longer meaningful in a postmodern society where fragmentation has led to greater individualism.   **Bytheway**  **Anthias** |  |

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| **Inequalities relating to class** | **Operationalizing Class** | * **Registrar General Scale** (Used by many sociologists as a measure of class e.g. Stephen Ball Beachside Comprehensive) * **NS-SEC** (Embraces elements of Marxist and Weberian theory) * **Measurements of social class:**    + Housing (Ownership)   + Income and Expenditure   + Education (GCSE results/ Post 16 entry)   + Health (Life Expectancy/ Mortality/ Morbidity Rates/ Pregnancy Rates)   + Politics * Useful study: Abercrombie and Urry: Boundary Problem |  |
| **Theoretical Explanations of Class inequality and difference** | **Functionalism**: social class inequality is an inevitable feature of a healthy society – meritocracy:   * Davis and Moore * Saunders (New Right)   **Marxism:** social class inequality a product of the oppressive economic system of capitalism. The middle class is a transitory class   * Braverman - Proletarianisation   **Neo-Marxism:** economic, social and cultural factors explain social class inequality.   * Wright * Sorenson * Bourdieu   **Weberian:** social classes exist in society and distinguished by differing life chances than others. Peoples market and work situation confirm their class – social mobility is possible which means rigid classes do not form. Division of those who own and do not own property are important. Weber predicted society would become more fragmented rather than polarised. Patterns of social inequality reflect real differences in the work and market situation of different occupational groups. (These situations can change with the social and economic climate)   * Goldthorpe and Heath   **Feminists:** Gender and class inequalities considered by Marxist Feminists.  **Postmodern:** Class is dead. Class divisions are now status divisions. We live in an individualised society where individuals no longer view class as a defining feature of their identity – a result of the consumer society?   * Pakulski and Waters |  |
| **Changing Nature of the Class Structure** | UK traditionally viewed as having a tri-level class structure? Debate – has this changed?   * Useful Studies: Payne, Scott, Bell, Pakulski and Waters |  |
| **Evaluation to 20 mark essays on class inequality:** | Consider the intersection of class with other demographic features – Gender, Ethnicity and Age:   * Anthias * Vincent et al * Bytheway |  |

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| **Topic** | **Sub-topic** | **Key Concepts/ studies to Cover** | **Covered**  **Yes/No** |
| **Inequalities relating to gender** | **Outlining evidence that gender inequality exists.**  (10 mark questions) | Consider the ways in which gender inequality exists in the following places:   * Workplace:   + legislation (EPA, SDA, Equalities Act, Maternity/ Paternity Changes)   + Full-time/ Part-time divide (possible links to family)   + Glass ceiling/ Concrete ceiling/ Leaky pipeline (link to liberal feminism/ dual market theory – Barron and Norris)   + Gender Pay Gap * Home:   + Conjugal role debate (family link) * Politics:   + Underepresentation of women MP’s. * Education:   + Revision of education (In and out of school factors causing DEA – Spender, Stanworth, Francis, Sharpe, Jackson…) * Health:   + Life expectancy/ morbidity rates. |  |
| **Theoretical Explanations of Gender inequality and difference** (VITAL for a 20 mark essay on gender/ social inequality)  Ensure you’re aware of criticisms too | **Functionalism**: gender inequality is an inevitable feature of a healthy society, biologically determined:   * Parsons   **Marxism:** women as a reserve army of labour   * Beechey * Engels * Zaretsky   **Weberian:** men and women occupy different positions in the workplace – dual market theory – vertical and horizontal segregation:   * Barron and Norris   **Feminists:** Gender inequalities exist:   * + **Liberal** (equality of opportunity) Freidan   + **Marxis**t (Economic Aspects of gender inequality) Benston, Haartman   + **Radical** (Inequality caused by patriarchy) Firestone, Millet, Walby   + **Black (**Ethnicity and Gender)   + **Post** (Response to what 2nd wave feminism has achieved)   **Preference Theory** : Not all women are disadvantaged – rational choice: Hakim |  |

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| **Inequalities relating to ethnicity** | **Operationalizing Ethnicity** | * ONS classification * Verotec – Super Diversity |  |
| **Outlining evidence that ethnic inequality exists.**  (10 mark questions) | Consider the ways in which ethnic inequality exists in the following places:   * Workplace:   + Income differences: Moodod and Berthoud’s study   + Cheung – ethnic penalty   + Mason – employer attitudes.   + Payne – some ethnic minorities disadvantaged due to lack of manual work.   + Ginn and Arbour – ethnic minority (women) earn less and more likely to depend on low state pension only. * Politics:   + Underepresentation of ethnic minority/ black MP’s. * Education:   + Revision of education (In and out of school factors causing DEA – Wright, Mason, Mac an Ghaill, Francis and Archer) * Crime   + Prison rates/ victim rates.   + Institutional racism (revise recent cases) * Media   + Mis-representation |  |
| **Theoretical Explanations of Ethnic inequality and difference** (VITAL for a 20 mark essay on ethnicity/ social inequality)  Ensure you’re aware of criticisms too | **Functionalism:** ethnic inequality and difference is temporary – a result of a lack of value consensus – as EM groups are socialised and adapt (assimilation) these will be eliminated.   * Parsons   **Marxism:** racism and ethnic inequality play an important role in the capitalist system.   * Cox * Castle and Kosack   **Neo-Marxism:** Combined economic arguments with work on cultural differences. Lack of Social/ Cultural capital too. Maybe EM groups are used a scapegoats (ISA) – See Halls study (Mugging).  **Black Feminism:**  **Weberian:** EM groups occupy different positions in the workplace – dual market theory – vertical and horizontal segregation:   * Barron and Norris * Rex and Moore   **Post Modern**:   * Modood |  |

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| **Topic** | **Sub-topic** | **Key Concepts/ studies to Cover** | **Covered**  **Yes/No** |
| **Inequalities relating to Age** | **Operationalizing Age** | * Bytheway |  |
| **Outlining evidence that age inequality exists.**  (10 mark questions) | Consider the ways in which age inequality exists in the following places:   * Workplace:   + ‘too old to employ’   + Legislation   + Horizontal and Vertical segregation on the basis of age * Pensions * Home * Media * Politics * Crime * Health |  |
| **Theoretical Explanations of Age inequality and difference** (VITAL for a 20 mark essay on age/ social inequality)  Ensure you’re aware of criticisms too | **Functionalism:** Views age stratification in terms of **modernisation** and **social roles.** Modernisation and the development of industrial societies has led to changing social roles for older people and the young – introduction of laws on child labour and retirement ages and pensions. Lack of involvement in economic production has led to **disengagement** from society for the elderly, and modernisation and technological advance means that their knowledge is often seen as outdated. Functionalists view this as functional – as the elderly move into retirement they are replaced by younger, more energetic workers   * Parsons * Eisenstatd   **Marxism:** Marxist idea of **Reserve Army of Labour** could be applied to some age groups – the young and the retired may be called upon to do jobs for relatively low wages during economic boom and dismissed when the economy goes in to slump   * Cox   **Weberian:** Agegroups occupy different positions in the workplace – dual market theory – vertical and horizontal segregation:   * Barron and Norris * Parkins * McKingsley   **Post Modern**: Individual choice and “de-structuring” of society has made age a fragmented and diverse social category   * **(Featherstone & Hepworth 1999)** |  |

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| **Topic** | **Sub-topic** | **Key Concepts/ studies to Cover** | **Covered**  **Yes/No** |
| **Inequalities relating to Disability** | **Operationalizing Disability** | Challenges of identifying disability: disablism, issues with defining and categorising disability  Awareness of changes to benefits: differences of PIP (Personal Independence Plan) to DLA (Disability living allowance) |  |
| **Outlining evidence that disability inequality exists.**  (10 mark questions) | Details on Pages in workbook:  Consider the ways in which disability inequality exists in the following places:   * Workplace: * Home * Media * Politics * Living standards |  |
| **Theoretical Explanations of Disability inequality and difference** (VITAL for a 20 mark essay on age/ social inequality)  Ensure you’re aware of criticisms too | **MEDICAL MODEL:**  Approach focuses almost exclusively on impairment and therefore sees the difficulties experienced by the disabled as a product of their physical/ mental condition   * DAVIES   **SOCIAL MODEL:**  An approach focuses on how the difficulties and disadvantages experienced by the disabled may be the product of prejudicial attitudes and discriminatory practises.   * SHEARER * BARNES * THOMPSON * SHAKESPEARE   **MARXIST THEORY**  OLIVER:  HYDE:  **Other approaches**  GOFFMAN |  |

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| **Social mobility** | **Defining social mobility** | * Open vs closed societies * Equal opportunity * Intergenerational social mobility * Intragenerational social mobility * Meritocracy * Structural mobility * Relative mobility * Problems with measurement (relates to issues with operationalising class): Oxford mobility study (OMS), Sutton Trust, Centre for Economic Peformance. |  |
| **Issues with meritocracy** | * Debates between functionalists and Marxists, and Social Democrats and New Right (see education notes). * Case against a lack of social mobility: PETER SAUNDERS |  |
| **Policy** | Examples of policies that have helped or hindered social mobility. |  |
| **Mobility in different social groups (see booklet)** | * GENDER * ETHNICITY |  |

**STRATIFICATION POSSIBLE EXAM QUESTIONS**

**Social class questions**

* Outline two ways someone’s social class identity may advantage them in society [10 marks]
* Outline two ways someone’s social class identity may disadvantage them in society [10 marks]
* Outline two reasons why it is difficult to state that the middle class is homogeneous in its identity [10 marks]
* Outline two ways that globalisation has had an impact on the nature of social class identities in the UK today [10 marks]
* Outline and explain two reasons why consumption may have replaced class as an indicator status [10 marks]
* Outline two ways in which the elite promote their shared (class) interests [10 marks]
* Outline and explain two problems with using the occupation of the father to explain the social class position of the whole family [10 marks]

**Item A**

Postmodernists suggest that subjective class is as important as occupation in defining a person’s social class, as in our flued occupational structure an individual may change jobs many times, thus changing their identity. Consumption patterns may play a part in their self-classification. Marxists, however, would suggest that objective social class is the most important aspect of an individual’s position in society.

* Applying material from Item A, analyse two problems with using subjective class as an indicator of an individual’s position in society [10 marks]

**Item B**

Due to the deskilling of many occupations, both those formerly considered middle class and those considered working class, it no longer makes sense to speak of the UK as being divided into upper, middle and working class but rather as having a multitude of classes. Marxists would disagree.

* Applying material from Item B, analyse two reasons for suggesting that class definitions based on occupation are no longer relevant to the UK today [10 marks]

**Item C**

Marxists suggest that occupation is still the most efficient way of describing social class of both an individual and the family they belong to at any point in their lives. Most studies have concentrated on the occupation of the main in the household. Some feminists would argue that to fully understand the class position of a family the occupation of both parents should be considered.

* Applying material from item C and your knowledge, evaluate the extent to which occupation is a useful indicator of an individual’s social class [20 marks]

**Item D**

Due to the deskilling of many occupations, both those formerly considered middle class and those considered working class, Weberians argue it no longer makes sense to speak of the UK as being divided into upper, middle and working class but rather as having a multitude of classes. Marxists would disagree.

* Applying material from item D and your knowledge, evaluate Weberian view of the changing nature of the class structure in the contemporary UK [20 marks]

Item E

Worldwide, the rich have got richer, even when the world economy slumped into recession, and the poor have got poorer. At the start of 2014, Oxfam calculated that the richest eighty-five people on the planet owned as much as the poorest half of the world’s population. Marxists might explain this as the rise of a transnational capitalist class, while functionalists might explain it in terms of meritocracy.

* Applying material from item E and your knowledge, evaluate the usefulness of Marxist theories in explaining growing global inequality [20 marks]
* Evaluate the view that social class is becoming less significant in the contemporary UK [20]
* Evaluate the view that the middle class does not have a united identity [20]
* Evaluate the view that social class is still an important feature of the contemporary UK [20]

**Gender**

* Outline two ways men may be advantaged in society. **[10]**
* Outline two ways women are disadvantaged in society. **[10]**
* Outline two ways men may be disadvantaged in society **[10]**
* Assess feminist explanations of gender inequality in society. **[20]**

**Item B**

It is claimed by some sociologists that the social class of birth is the key determinant of many aspects of an individual’s life, such as their health, educational achievement, employment prospects and even the likely cause of death. Others, such as feminists, suggest that factors such as gender play an equally important part, particularly in explaining the differential position of women in contemporary society.

* Applying material from Item B and your knowledge, evaluate the usefulness of feminist approaches in explaining the position of women in society today **[20]**

**Item C**

Despite greater equality of opportunity between young women and men, gender inequalities still exist in employment and earnings. Functionalists see this as a ‘normal’ state of affairs and as the result of correct socialisation, whilst Marxists suggest that class affects different groups in different ways.

* Applying material from Item C and your knowledge, evaluate the usefulness of functionalist theories in understanding the position of women in society today **[20]**
* Assess the view that there are natural roles that men and women undertake in society **[20]**
* Assess sociological explanations of gender inequality in the contemporary UK **[20]**

**Ethnicity**

* Outline two factors that can lead to the disadvantage of some ethnic groups in the UK [10]
* Outline and explain two reasons why the occupational status of ethnic minorities may not offer a satisfactory understanding of their social class position [10].

**Item A**

Racism has often been given as a reason for the historic position of ethnic minorities. As the UK became a more diverse culture and assimilation occurred, it was hoped that differences between groups would become less marked and all would be treated equally. However, figures for poverty and unemployment show this has not happened.

Applying material from item A, analyse two reasons why ethnic minorities still tend to be treated less equally than the majority population [10]

Assess Weberian [or insert any other theoretical perspective covered in this booklet] explanations of ethnic inequality in the contemporary UK. **[20]**

**Age**

* Outline and explain two ways that older people are disadvantaged in the UK. [10]
* Outline and explain two ways young people are disadvantaged in the contemporary UK [10]

**Item A**

Class is measured by poverty affects in both youth and old age, but gender, ethnicity and disability are also tightly interwoven. This may be due to factors such as social exclusion and the social capital of these two groups, or may merely be due to the fact that these groups are less likely to be employed.

* Applying material from Item A, analyse two reasons why the very young or the elderly face a higher risk of living in poverty [10 marks]
* Assess the view that age inequalities are most likely to happen during the period of old age. [20]
* Assess functionalist explanations of age differentiation. [20]

**Disability**

* Outline two reasons why those with disabilities are more likely to have lower occupational status than other groups [10 marks]

Item: People with disabilities are particularly underrepresented in the professions and management which offer higher earnings and security of employment (vertical segregation). At the same time they are overrepresented in low-paid, less-skilled routine work.

Applying material from the item, analyse two reasons why people with disabilities are disadvantaged in the labour market [10]

* Outline two ways disabled people face discrimination in the contemporary UK [20]
* Evaluate the view that the social model of disability offers the best approach to understanding disablism [20]

**Social mobility and general stratification (pulls from across all topics)**

* Outline and explain two ways that social mobility can be measured. [10]
* Outline and explain two reasons why some sociologists see stratification as inevitable [10]
* Outline and explain two problems with using the occupation of the father to explain the social class position of the whole family [10]
* Outline and explain two reasons for the changes in the rates of social mobility [10]
* Item: women are clearly doing a lot better than they were and now make up nearly half of the workforce. Women are upwardly mobile in absolute terms, but there remains a more sizable gender gap in terms of relative mobility.
* Applying material from the item, analyse two reasons why women may experience less social mobility than men [10]

Item: social mobility is often seen as an indicator of an open society where meritocracy and individual hard work are of more importance than the accident of birth into a particular class. Yet, in the UK today, a child born into Social Class V is as likely to stay there as to reach even Social Class III.

Applying material from the item, analyse two reasons why the UK remains a relatively closed society in terms of social mobility [10]

* Item: A society is said to be open when there is movement of individuals between identified social strata in a society. Such movement is referred to as social mobility which can be both upward and downwards.
* Applying material from the item and your knowledge, evaluate the view that the United Kingdom is and open society [20 marks]

**Item B:**

A truly open labour market is one where from an equal base everyone has the same chances of recruitment and advancement. It assumes that workers are employed and progressed on the basis of merit rather than privilege, favour or background.

Applying material from item B and your knowledge, evaluate the view that an open and non-discriminatory labour market exists in the UK [20]