

How to answer 4 mark questions

The pattern of these questions is:

Explain what sociologists mean by.....

EG “Explain what sociologists mean by labelling.”

Sometimes the question may add *when studying.....*

EG “Explain what sociologists mean by conformity *when studying education.*”

The marks are allocated as follows:

1 mark for basic statements about the question with little or no reference to the topic that the question’s set on.

2-3 marks for a partial or under-developed sociological explanation, possibly via an example, in which some general reference will be made to the topic that the question is set on.

4 marks for a clear explanation focused on the topic that the question is set on that uses examples from specifically relevant areas of sociology

How to start your answer:

In the context of (insert name of topic), (keyword) means.....

Example: Family section: Explain what sociologists mean by patriarchy. (4 marks)

DEFINITION IN CONTEXT	In the context of the family , <i>patriarchy</i> means
EXAMPLE	For example....
EXPLAIN THE PROCESS	This happens because...

How to answer 5 Mark questions

DON'T FORGET: underline / highlight the key words in the question and then use them in your answer.

EG: Describe one way in which gender roles in the family have changed in the past 50 years **and** explain why this change has happened.

DESCRIBE	<u>one way in which gender roles in the family have changed in the past 50 years is</u>
NEW PARAGRAPH	
EXPLAIN	<u>this change has happened because</u>
	Link a theory or concept for the fifth mark

Mark scheme:

Describe one: 2 marks

1 mark for a partial description.

2 marks for an appropriate and more developed description

Explain: 3 marks
description.

1-2 marks for a simple explanation linked to the

3 marks for a clear explanation explicitly related to the description AND relevant sociological theory / concepts.

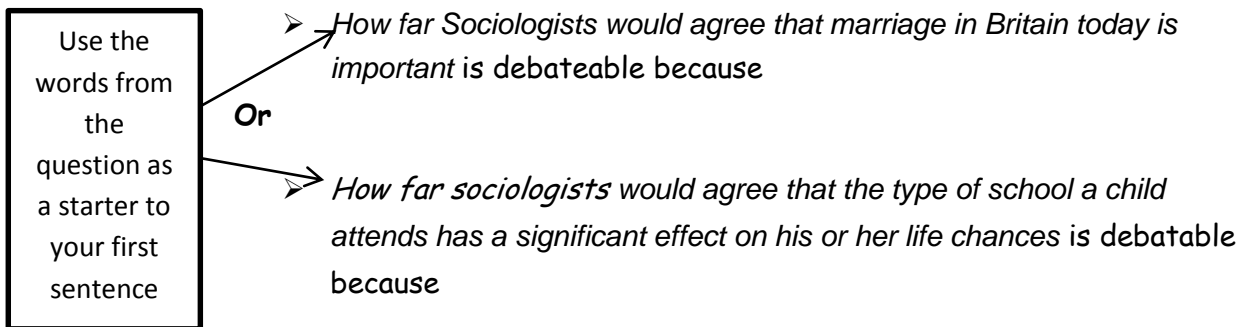
PEELing apart your essay

For your question, identify at least three points – there **must** be at least ONE in each column.

Sociologists WOULD agree	Sociologists WOULD NOT agree

Introductions

Use the question at the beginning of your introduction for example;



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

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



← Pointless picture of a banana (teacher joke)

Now **PEEL** the question apart

You need to do the following for **EACH** of your 4 points

P O I N T	theory or concept	
E X P L A I N	what do sociologists think about this?	
		Is there a theory that can be linked?
E X A M P L E	evidence from stats or a relevant example from real life	
L I N K	to the question and next paragraph	

Conclusion starters

Your conclusion should address the essay question directly (weigh up all the evidence/theories) and answer the 'How far.' part. 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...
- Mention any statistics that support your conclusion

Question type	What makes a good answer? Use the model answers to help
4 mark	
5 Mark	
12 Mark	