Sociology Evidence Bank

To be successful at Sociology A-Level, you will need to back up all your points with relevant evidence. You should be using this evidence to help construct a well-balanced answer. You should also be using evidence to develop a critique of various Sociological arguments. Evidence predominantly takes the form of Sociological studies, such as Paul Willis’ ‘Learning to Labour’, but can also take the form of things such as official statistics, (crime stats, exam results etc), Longitudinal Studies (The 7up series) etc.

Throughout the course, you should be completing this document after ***EVERY LESSON,*** and using it to complete your essays. If completed comprehensively and accurately, this will make your revision significantly less stressful.

Please be aware that lots of evidence can be used in different aspects of the course. If you feel a certain piece of evidence backs up your point: 1) You will usually be correct and 2) Do not be afraid to use it.

Although perhaps not as detailed, you should be aiming for something like this:

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| Name of Study: ‘Learning to Labour’ by Paul Willis |
| Synopsis: Looked to find out why “working class kids gets working class jobs.” Working class ‘lads’ openly discussed their school experiences. The ‘lads’ knew what was waiting for them, a low paid manual job, and developed ways to amuse themselves through low level disruption. The ‘lads’ were scathing of the ‘ear’oles’ those students who listened to what the teachers had to say.  |
| Methods used: Interviews, Observations. |
| Where can this study be used:Class achievement in Education. Gender differences in Education. Marxist theory of Education. Strengths and weaknesses of Interviews and Observation.  |
| Strengths: Able to get a lot of valid information. Supports Bowles and Gintis’ Correspondence principle.  | Weaknesses:Sample size small so difficult to replicate. Not especially reliable. Ignores how a growing number of working class children are becoming more successful. Published in 1977- could be seen as outdated?  |

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| Strengths:   | Weaknesses:  |

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