



BA Sixth Form: Transition Booklet

Sociology

Contents:

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What is Sociology?

Essentially sociology is the study of society: human social relationships and institutions. The topics studied by sociologists are diverse and range from crime to religion, from the family to education, and from the divisions of our society to our shared beliefs. Every aspect of sociology tries to help us to understand how human beings both shape, and are shaped by, the world around them.

A level sociology is an exciting course of study that analyses everyday life, enabling us to take a critical world view by encouraging us to question why the world works the way it does. Sociologists emphasize the careful gathering and analysis of evidence about social life through research, and you will study these methods in depth, along with the different theories and concepts groups of sociologists have developed to explain social processes and structures in society.

Many sociology students go on to study the subject at university. However, sociology also equips you with important transferable skills in analytical writing, communication skills, cross-cultural understanding and interpersonal skills. These are essential whatever you choose to do after sixth form.

For more detail on each unit and examples of each exam, check the exam board website: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192>

Year 12 Induction programme

The following programme is designed to prepare you for A level Sociology for the following topics:

Education

Families and Households

Globalisation

Crime and Deviance

Sociological Theory and Research Methods

You must aim to complete all sections of the programme to ensure that you have a thorough understanding of the background for each key topic. It is suggested that you complete a task each week. Suggested website links are included.

Week	Topic	Task set	Complete
1	Society	<p>The social world is changing. Some argue it is growing; others say it is shrinking. The important point to grasp is: society does not remain static over time; it constantly changes – through decades, centuries; and across countries, societies. Answer the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give 3 different ways society has changed over the last 100yrs – think about the different areas of social life and work. • Why has society changed? Why are societies different? <p>Now read the following articles and make 3 bullet points for each, summarising how society has been affected by the Coronavirus pandemic:</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2020/apr/22/every-abuser-is-more-volatile-the-truth-behind-the-shocking-rise-of-domestic-violence-killings</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/25/why-do-female-leaders-seem-to-be-more-successful-at-managing-the-coronavirus-crisis</p>	
2	What is Sociology?	<p>1a. In 50-100 words, summarise what you believe Sociology to be.</p> <p>2a. Now watch the following clips and add to your notes, summarising what you believe Sociology to be.</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LK5JO-cM-HE</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnCJU6PaCio</p> <p>Find the definitions for the following key sociological terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socialisation (primary socialisation and secondary socialisation) • Norms • Values • Beliefs • Culture • Social Class 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender • Ethnicity 	
3	Main Sociological Theories	<p>A theory, for our purpose, is something that explains the relationship between two or more things. A perspective can be defined as a way of looking at and seeing something. To have a perspective, therefore, means to look at something (whatever that thing might be) in a particular way. When we talk about the sociological perspective, therefore, we are talking about the particular way those sociologists, as opposed to non-sociologists to try to understand human social behaviour.</p> <p>Task 1: Consensus vs. Conflict Theory https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2wFPajHuluE Question: What is the difference between consensus and conflict theory's approaches to studying society?</p> <p>Task 2: Your task is to carry out independent research using the internet to find out key information about each theory, including their key concepts, theorists and criticisms *Please do not just 'cut and paste': you need to present your research on 1 piece of A4 paper (this can be typed or by hand) you need to make sure you have fully engaged with your chosen perspective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Functionalism • Marxism • Feminism • Action Theories • Postmodernism • Which sociological perspective do you agree with? Why? <p>The YouTube channel below is good for summaries of the main theories: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuuaLjXtMJ-AfB_7J1538YKWkZAnGA https://revisesociology.com/sociology-theories-a-level/ https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/topics/group/theory-methods-key-terms</p>	

4	Education	<p>Research the following areas to gain a better and more informed understanding of the history of education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● When did education become compulsory in the UK? ● Prior to compulsory education, what were the differences in who used to receive schooling? ● What are the oldest and newest subjects? ● How have the methods of dealing with behaviour changed over time? ● What are some of the major changes that have taken place in UK education in the 20th and 21st centuries? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider the impact of the following policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Education Act 1944 (Tripartite System) ■ Comprehensives 1966 ■ Education Reform Act 1988 ● Your personal view on – what is the role and purpose of education? <p>https://www.schoolsmith.co.uk/history-of-education/ https://getrevising.co.uk/revision-notes/social-policy-and-education</p> <p>Challenge Task - Secret teacher: The emphasis on British History is depriving students of balance https://www.theguardian.com/teacher-network/2018/may/26/secret-teacher-history-bias-school-fear-student-future</p> <p>Question: Define the term ethnocentric curriculum. What changes would you suggest need to be made, if any, to the UK's education system?</p>	
5	Family	<p>Find the definitions for the following key family terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Monogamy ● Bigamy ● Polygamy ● Maternal ● Nuclear family ● Empty nest ● Empty shell marriage ● Extended family ● Kinship ● Cohabitation <p>Research the changing family in the UK and answer the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How has the family structure changed over the past 100 years? ● How have the following policies affected the family? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Divorce Act 1969 and 1984 ○ The Paternity Act 2010 ○ The Civil partnerships Act 2004 and the Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Act 2013 <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zj8qn39/revision/2 https://revisesociology.com/2015/12/17/social-policy-family/</p>	
6	Sociology is everywhere: Sociology in	<p>Sociology is everywhere so you'll be able to see aspects of it in all forms of media. Try searching for the following titles and make notes on any videos you</p>	

	the media	<p>watch, try to keep it relevant to the topics taught in Sociology (Education, Families, Global Development, Crime and Deviance).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did you learn about society? • How does the programme link to the topics you will be studying? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stacey Dooley documentaries (BBC iplayer/YouTube) ○ Black Mirror (Netflix) – Nosedive episode ○ School Swap documentary(4OD) ○ Louis Theroux documentaries(Netflix) ○ Dispatches documentaries (4OD) ○ Panorama documentaries (BBC iplayer) 	
7	Education and Families in the news	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find the definition of meritocracy. • Read the following news article https://www.tes.com/news/few-one-20-born-poorest-areas-go-university and answer the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Does this article suggest we live in a meritocracy? ○ Why is it important that ‘poor’ students go to university? • Find 5 news articles that link to Education and/or Families. Download and print. Some things to look out for are: immigration, poverty, benefits, exam results, private education, achievement, free schools. <p>https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/Sociology https://www.theguardian.com/education/sociology</p>	
8	Globalisation	<p>Research globalisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is globalisation? • How has it occurred? • What is the debate between globalisation and Westernisation/ Americanisation? • Research different experiences of childhood across the world and give reasons for why society may or may not be more ‘child-centred’ • How has war affected different societies? <p>https://www.sociologygroup.com/sociology-of-globalization/ https://revisionworld.com/a2-level-level-revision/sociology-level-revision/family/childhood https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Effects_of_war</p>	
9	Crime	<p>Using the internet, research the answers to the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a crime? • What is deviance? • What are laws? • What is a white collar crime? • Moral crimes include offences such as prostitution, underage drinking and illegal drug use. Why do some people argue that such crimes are ‘victimless’? • What is cybercrime? Name some examples of cybercrimes. • What is a hate crime? • What do you think is more effective in reducing crime: crime prevention or harsher punishments? 	

<https://www.coursehero.com/sg/introduction-to-sociology/defining-crime-in-sociology/>

Go on the following website and research crime in your area or the area near your school. <https://www.crime-statistics.co.uk/postcode/AL10%208NL> and answer the following questions:

- Where does most crime take place?
- What are the top 3 crimes/offences?
- Why do you think that those crimes are committed in your area? Think about socio-economic issues and location.

Met ‘use more force’ against black people

Read the article and answer the question.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-44214748>

Question: Summarise the statistics presented in this article. Is this evidence of institutional racism or wider racism in society?

The dark side of female empowerment: The rise of Britain's 'gangster girls' running gangs

Read the article and answer the question.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/womens-life/10857716/Britains-gangster-girls-The-dark-side-of-female-empowerment-The-rise-of-women-and-females-running-gangs.html>

Question: Are the rise of ‘girl gangs’ a direct effect of female liberation? How else could they be explained?

10
Research
Methods: Intro
and
Questionnaires

Task 1: Complete the following glossary of key terms:
Challenge: Give an example of a topic area where sociologists would use this research method for their investigation.

Documents

- Personal
- Public
- Historical

Experiments

- Lab
- Field

Interviews

- Structured
- Unstructured
- Semi-structured
- Focus groups

		<u>Official statistics</u>		
		<u>Observations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covert • Overt • Participant • Non-participant 		
		<u>Questionnaires</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed questions • Open questions • Self-completion/postal • Interview questionnaires 		
		<u>Qualitative data</u>		
		<u>Quantitative data</u>		
		<u>Primary data</u>		
		<u>Secondary data</u>		
		<p>As you've seen, data and information about society is collected in different ways. You are going to conduct your own sociological survey and collect data on an aspect of society that particularly interests you (for example, why do people leave school for college? Why do people go travelling? Why do people drink underage? How have people coped with isolation during the Coronavirus pandemic?).</p> <p>Questionnaires You must design a questionnaire, with between 6-8 questions on your given area. You will need to break your topic up into smaller questions. For example:</p>		

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is your age? 2. Are you male or female? 3. Did you go travelling because... (pick one) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You didn't want a job • You had family abroad • You wanted an adventure 4. Where did you go travelling? 5. Would you go travelling again? Yes/No <p>You will need to carry out your questionnaire on a range of different people. Aim to ask 5 people the same questionnaire.</p>	
11	Research Methods: Interviews	<p>Interviews</p> <p>You must design a set of interview questions (between 6-8) on the same area as your questionnaire (You can use the same questions or pick new ones, this is up to you).</p> <p>For example:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please give me 2 reasons why you decided to go travelling? 2. Did you travel alone? Why? 3. Would you go travelling again? <p>This time ask different people from those who completed your questionnaire. Aim to carry out your interview on at least 3 people.</p>	
12	Research Methods: Evaluating methods	<p>Evaluating questionnaires and interviews: Answer the following essay question:</p> <p>What are the positives and negatives of using questionnaires and interviews when collecting data?</p> <p>You will need to explain both the positives and negatives of using both <u>questionnaires</u> and <u>interviews</u>. You must also explain any difficulties you had and why, and come to an overall conclusion of which method worked best for you. You should write at least 750 words.</p> <p>http://www.sociology.org.uk/revgrm1.pdf</p>	
Additional options		<p>Future Learn course – What is Sociology? 3 week course https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/what-is-sociology</p>	

Suggested Resource Lists

At A Level Sociology it is expected that you have been partaking in wider reading. Below is a list of books/journals and Film/TV that you could use over the next two years to support you with your A Level Sociology studies.

A Level Sociology Textbook Suggestions:

AQA A Level Sociology Book 1, Rob Webb et al. (2015)

AQA A Level Sociology Book 2 Rob Webb et al. (2016)

Sociology for AQA Volume 1: AS and 1st Year A Level, Ken Browne (2015)

Sociology for AQA Volume 2: 2nd Year and A Level, Ken Browne (2016)

Succeed at A Level Sociology Book One Including AS Level: The Complete Revision Guide, Webb, R and Trobe, K (2016)

Succeed at A Level Sociology The Complete Revision Guide Book Two, Webb, R and Trobe, K (2016)

Pre-course Wider Reading Suggestions for Sociology A Level: Non-Fiction

'The Sociology Review', A Level magazine: Hodder Education. By subscription or in school library.

Ain't I a Woman? Black Women and Feminism, Bell Hooks (1981)

Black Like Me, John Howard Griffin (1961)

Freakonomics, Steven D. Levitt & Steven J. Dubner (2006)

Chavs: The Demonisation of the Working Class, Owen Jones (2011)

Gang Leader for a Day, Sudhir Venkatesh (2009)

Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity, Judith Butler (1990)

Respectable: The Experience of Class, Lynsey Hanley (2016)

The Call of the Weird: Travels in American Subcultures, Louis Theroux (2005)

The Nonsense of Free Will: Facing Up to a False Belief, Richard Oerton (2012)

Watching the English: the Hidden Rules of English Behaviour, Kate Fox (2004)

Documentaries/TV

Back to School with Mum and Dad (BBC)

Black and British: A Forgotten History (BBC)

Beyond the Asylum (BBC)

Harrow: A Very British School (Sky1)

Educating Essex (Channel 4)

Secret Life of Four Year Olds (Channel 4)

The Doctor Who Gave Up Drugs (BBC)

63 Up (ITV)

Banged Up – Teens Behind Bars (Channel 4)

Stacey Dooley Investigates (BBC Three)

Film

Catfish (2010)

Billy Elliott (2000)

Dangerous Minds (1995)

East is East (1999)

Made in Dagenham (2010)

Freedom Writers (2007)

Captain Fantastic (Netflix)
The Kids are All Right (2010)
The History Boys (2006)

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jOZqVnQmdY> (Functionalism)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0GFSUu5UzA> (Marxism 1)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSQgCy_ilcc (Marxism 2)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jFQIIM8IRZU> (Symbolic Interactionism)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3D_C-Nes60 (Types of Feminism)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t6H3BYv_yJM (Postmodernism)

Twitter suggestions

@TheSocReview – The Sociology Review A Level magazine

@DailySociology – sociology news every day

@SocImages – links to interesting articles and research

@TheSocCinema – pop culture and film links with sociology

@SassySociology – a PhD student specialising in gender, ethnicity and inequalities

@LearnSoc - this is the official twitter page of one of the largest sociology website

@SociologyLens -provides links to current sociological topics, research and issues to debate

@BrowneKen – Author to sociology textbooks/revision guides; provides links to current and interesting examples

@hecticteacher – shares brilliant ideas and revision resources

Wesbites

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology>
<http://www.podology.org.uk/#/home/4556339389>
<https://hecticteachersalevelsociologysite.wordpress.com/>

Podcasts

The Sociology Show Podcast <https://www.spreaker.com/show/the-sociology-show>

Sociology Podcasts <https://player.fm/featured/sociology>

Thinking Allowed BBC Radio 4

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qy05/episodes/player>

The Guilty Feminist <http://guiltyfeminist.com/>