

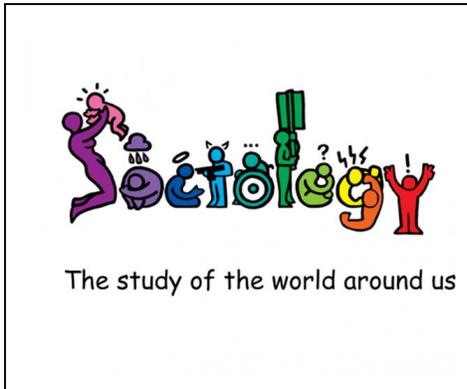


Sixth Form Preparation for Success

Welcome to Sociology

AQA A Level Sociology, 7192

Introduction



Sociology is the study of society and social institutions like the family, education, the media, and the criminal justice system. You will spend time exploring the world around you and studying the different views that exist in our society. To be successful you need to be open-minded and keep up-to-date with what is happening in the world. This project will introduce you to some current affairs, as well as develop your study skills to make you a more successful student.

Part I – Y11 into 12 Sociology Specific Bridging Work To be completed May – Sept

Remember that prizes will be awarded for 'exceptional' work that demonstrates effort above expected !

a) Investigate places of interest

If travelling is a possibility, there are plenty of places you can visit that are relevant to studying Sociology. If not then try their websites. Some examples to consider are:

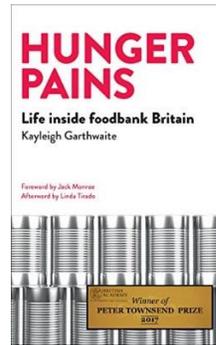
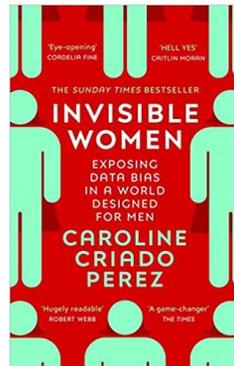
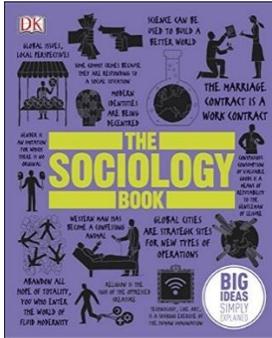
- Book a tour of the BBC studies in Manchester to gain understanding for the Media topic in year 2 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/showsandtours/tours/bbc-tour-at-mediacityuk>
- Visit the V&A Museum of Childhood in London <https://www.vam.ac.uk/moc/>
- Visit York Castle museum to see exhibits on WW1, childhood toys over time, cultural changes through history, and look around the old prison building <https://www.yorkcastlemuseum.org.uk/>
- Visit the National Justice Museum in Nottingham <https://www.nationaljusticemuseum.org.uk/about-us/>

If travel restrictions are still in place, or it will be difficult for you to travel, you could try some of these instead:

- Have a look at some free online resources from the Museum of Justice in Nottingham <https://www.nationaljusticemuseum.org.uk/education/free-resources/>
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- Take a virtual tour of North Allerton prison <http://www.vue3sixty.co.uk/hambleton/northallertonprison.html> or watch the video guided tour https://www.hambleton.gov.uk/prison/homepage/5/virtual_tours

b) Wider reading



The Sociology Review magazine offers some free copies of articles for students <https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/magazines/magazines-extras/sociology-review-extras>

Listen to the Talking Allowed programme on Radio 4 for some interesting information relevant to sociology <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qy05>

Watch a few different TED Talks on topics covered in Sociology <https://www.ted.com/topics/sociology>

c) Compulsory task

Task 1: Ted talk and Cornell note taking

The Cornell note taking system is an effective method for note-taking. To prepare you for your A Level studies and beyond (the work place or University!) watch one of the following videos to show you how to use this system.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ErSjc1PEGKE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WtW9IyE04OQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xSYnGhlnzyw>

You then need to practice using it so you are ready to start learning efficiently in September. Watch at least one of the following TED Talks videos (on the next page) and use the Cornell Method to take notes on the video. Bring these notes to your first lesson of Sociology.

Once you have got your head around how the system works, put this into practice. Choose one of the TED Talks videos below, watch it, and make your own page of Cornell notes. Bring these notes to your first Sociology lesson for a class discussion.

https://www.ted.com/talks/jackson_katz_violence_against_women_it_s_a_men_s_issue#t-14792

Domestic violence and sexual abuse are often called "women's issues." But in this bold, blunt talk, Jackson Katz points out that these are intrinsically men's issues -- and shows how these violent behaviors are tied to definitions of manhood. A clarion call for us all -- women and men -- to call out unacceptable behavior and be leaders of change.

https://www.ted.com/talks/mia_birdsong_the_story_we_tell_about_poverty_isn_t_true As a global community, we all want to end poverty. Mia Birdsong suggests a great place to start: Let's honor the skills, drive and initiative that poor people bring to the struggle every day. She asks us to look again at people in poverty: They may be broke — but they're not broken

https://www.ted.com/talks/arindam_bhattacharya_globalization_isn_t_declining_it_s_transforming Today's headlines suggest that globalization is on the decline, but researcher Arindam Bhattacharya argues that it's not going extinct -- it's evolving. Old globalization was traditionally measured in goods traded. New globalization, as Bhattacharya describes, can be measured in cross-border data flow (which by 2025 could be worth more than the world's exports combined). In other words, the world economy is far from dead -- it's growing. Bhattacharya shares insights into this new normal and what it means for the world as we know it.

https://www.ted.com/talks/chrystia_freeland_the_rise_of_the_new_global_super_rich Technology is advancing in leaps and bounds -- and so is economic inequality, says writer Chrystia Freeland. In an impassioned talk, she charts the rise of a new class of plutocrats (those who are extremely powerful because they are extremely wealthy), and suggests that globalization and new technology are actually fueling, rather than closing, the global income gap. Freeland lays out three problems with plutocracy ... and one glimmer of hope.

https://www.ted.com/talks/misha_glenny_the_real_story_of_mcmafia_how_global_crime_networks_work Journalist Misha Glenny spent several years in a courageous investigation of organized crime networks, which have grown to an estimated 15% of the global economy. From the Russian mafia to the giant drug cartels, his sources include not just intelligence and law enforcement officials but criminal insiders.

Task 2: A personal diary of events

Sociologists use a variety of different forms of evidence in their research. Some sociologists want to find out about the personal views and experiences of individuals, so they look at personal documents like books and diaries. We have recently experienced a unique world event with the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic and the associated lockdown. Write down a diary of your own experience of this event. Try to document as much of the following information as you can:

1. What you remember most about the start of the pandemic?
2. How you felt when the Government announced the lockdown?
3. How your life was affected by the pandemic/lockdown?
4. What you missed/miss most since the lockdown started?
5. What you enjoyed (if anything) about the lockdown?
6. How you think your experience of the lockdown will affect you in the future?
7. What you are/were looking forward to most about the lockdown restrictions being lifted?
8. How the lockdown/pandemic has affected your family/education/friendships/use of media?

You can either write one piece on your overall experience, or you can write a diary/blog over the next few weeks/months to document how your experience changes over time. How you feel now will probably change as time goes on, but you might not remember if you write it down later. You will not be asked to share any of the personal details of your work unless you want to, but this will give you a unique opportunity to think like a sociologist and understand some of the research methods that they use.

Task 3: Research the foundations of sociology

In year 1 you will be studying 'Family and Households' and 'Education' as your main topic areas. If you go to the BBC News website/app there is a tab for news related to 'Family and Education' – you should get into the habit of regularly checking this tab for up-to-date issues in these areas of society.

For this task we want you to choose a story related to Family and/or Education that is currently or has recently been in the news. Follow this story by either reading about it over a few days/weeks or by doing some research about it using different sources e.g. online, magazines, newspapers, documentaries etc.

There are a few examples of current stories at the time this was written to give you ideas to start with, but you can look at whatever is going on right now. Choose something of interest to you personally, and avoid anything that makes you feel uncomfortable:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-52209165> - Parents trying to homeschool in a language they don't speak

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-52332453> - A new initiative being launched to minimise 'rough-sleeping' by offering hotel rooms for use by homeless people

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-51645826?intlink_from_url=https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/cmmqx9w8k5wt/students&link_location=live-reporting-story – A look at changing the entry criteria for university to avoid the use of predicted grades

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-51296197?intlink_from_url=https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/cvenzmgyl7t/parenting&link_location=live-reporting-story – Article looking at the use of technology by young people

Once you have done some research about the issue you have chosen, write your own report summarising what you have learnt. This report should be no more than one page of A4, and you should give it an appropriate title or headline. Try to include a relevant image if you can.

Task 4

One important area of sociology we will start to study in September is about sociological theoretical perspectives - the viewpoints of different types of sociologists when they look at society. There are 3 main perspectives that are important when we study Family and Education and these are:

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- Functionalism
 - Marxism
 - Feminism

Find out about these 3 different perspectives in sociology and create one of the following to summarise what you understand:

- A mind map of key concepts colour-coded for each perspective
- A glossary of key terms with definitions for each perspective
- A revision card/set of cards to summarise what you understand
- A mini video to summarise the 3 different perspectives
- A single page of cornell notes for each perspective

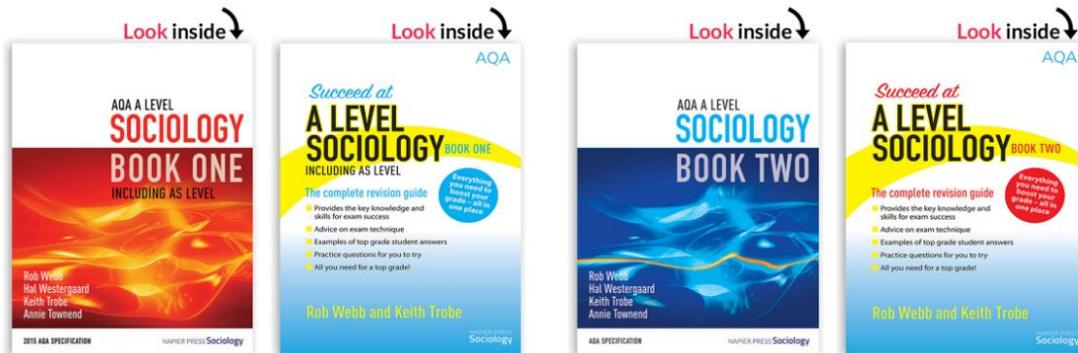
d) Stretch!

- You can stretch yourself by regularly reading or watching a credible news source every day. Download the BBC News app and get into the habit of checking it every morning when you have breakfast so you know what is happening in the world today. Or why not put a news channel or the radio on while you get ready so you can catch the latest headlines? Avoid relying on social media stories for your news as many stories are not accurately reported.
- Watch a sociology related film like one of those listed below:
 - Freedom Writers – The true story of an American teacher working in a multi-ethnicity school with a class of ‘unteachable’ teenagers (there is also a book called ‘The Freedom Writers Diaries’ which is fab!)
 - Love, Simon – A teenager struggling with his sexuality, wants to keep it a secret from his family, but then he meets ‘Blue’ online and sets out to find out who he is.
 - I, Daniel Blake – A very powerful film that looks at the difficulties of unemployment in the North East of England from the point of view of an older unemployed male and a young single mother of two.
 - Pride - A film which looks at how the striking miners and gay activists combined forces in the mid-eighties to successfully campaign and protest against the government.
 - Wonder (this is also a fantastic book!) – A film about a young boy with a serious facial disfigurement and how he struggles to ‘fit in’ at school. Looks at issues of disability, equality and personal identity.

Part II - Year 12 Head Start! for completion June – September

- a) The specification for the AQA A Level Sociology is available on the following link [here](#).
- b) The first topic we will be looking at in term 1 is Families and Households. The scheme of work for this topic can be accessed on the link [here](#).

- c) Your lesson material will be delivered by your teacher using a variety of teaching and assessment methods. A link to the digital textbook available for the first term's topic is available [here](#). For anyone joining us from other school, a link to the resource will be emailed to your contact email. This topic book will give you a chance to familiarise yourself with the material we will be covering in term 1.
- d) Text books will be available for use in class, but you may choose to invest in your own text book in which you can make your own notes. Owning your own is not a course requirement. Below are links to the books we use:
<https://napierpress.com/>



For first year A level and AS students
[Buy Books](#)

For second year A level students
[Buy Books](#)

There are a number of other text books available which you may find useful to support your studies outside of the classroom, just make sure that if you do choose to invest in a book, that it is suitable for AQA A Level Sociology.

- e) If you are keen to make a start on your studies from home, you could invest some time in doing some online learning or research. There are some links below with some suggestions:
- i) A free OpenLearn short course on family and society
<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/health-sports-psychology/childhood-youth/early-years/understanding-society-families/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab>
 - ii) Crash Course Sociology videos on YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuuaLjXtMJ-AfB_7J1538YKWkZAnGA
 - iii) The Sociology Guy's YouTube channel
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWU6adxjGXd9oKNkoabD-w>
 - iv) The Tutor2U website Sociology site <https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology>

Good luck over the summer holidays and we look forward to meeting you all in September.