



Year 12

A Level Sociology Handbook

Class of 2025



Sociology

Name _____

Please make sure you keep this booklet in a safe place it contains important information you will use throughout your first year of A level studies

Why choose Sociology?

Sociology is the study of the society that we live in. Society affects us all in different ways.

Sociology focuses on how an individual's social position (class, age, gender, ethnicity) might affect their life chances in society.

Sociology is a social science; this means that methods such as official statistics, questionnaires and interviews are used to research social issues.

A successful student in sociology will learn the main perspectives, sociologists and key concepts (ideas) and be able to show that they understand these by giving relevant examples that link to UK society. In addition to this, they will be able to analyse, evaluate research and perspectives, and draw their own conclusions about a range of social issues.

This course is good preparation for university because many courses include elements of sociology within them. It can also prepare students for careers in social research or policy making at local or government level, careers in law such as solicitor or barrister, or the police as police officer or detective, social work or in education, lecturing as a teacher or researcher.

Skills and attributes needed for excellence in sociology

Attribute/Skill	Why
An interest in social issues through watching the news, documentaries and reading articles from newspapers, journals and magazines.	So that you are fully aware of what is happening currently in the UK and can give up to date examples in your essays and answers.
Being curious and able to think critically about complex issues	So that you can look at issues from a range of different perspectives. So that you can look at issues objectively, by examining a range of evidence and drawing conclusions.
Excellent attendance to lessons	You must attend all lessons; otherwise, you could miss learning about concepts that will help you to become a better sociologist. If you are, absent for any reason you must contact your teacher before the lesson and you are fully responsible for completing any work that you have missed.
An ability to participate in debates by listening to others, using specialist terms and putting forward your own ideas.	So that you learn different perspectives and examples which can deepen your understanding.
Outstanding organisation which means you know what you are learning and why, your folder is up to date, you are keeping a glossary of key terms and	So that you learn all of the lesson content. You are revising from the start of Year 12. You build a strong set of vocabulary to talk as a sociologist

sociologists and you meet all of your deadlines.	and your teacher can see your work and assess your progress well.
Work independently by completing at least five hours of sociology outside of lessons.	So that you can cover the specification for this course in the depth required to become a competent sociologist.
You are professional and make sure that all of your communication with your teachers builds a positive relationship	So that you learn to interact in person and by email in a polite and professional manner.

A level Sociology is a valuable first step in achieving your academic ambitions; we wish you lots of success on this course.

Entry Requirements

Ideally, you will have a 'B' (Level 6) in English and a 'C' (Level 5) grade in Maths. These are the absolute minimum requirements, as this course requires you to read from a range of media sources and be able to plan and write essays. Good grades in Science are also useful, as you will need to be able to analyse a range of data.

To ensure that you are successful in sociology your teachers assess your suitability at the end of September. Your summer preparation tasks, a written assessment and a review by your teacher looking at your attendance, commitment to learning/meeting deadlines/participation in lessons and any other assignments that you have completed.

.

Year 12: What will you study and how you will be assessed.

<u>Paper 1</u> <u>Compulsory Content:</u>	<u>Topics:</u> <u>Education with Theory and Methods</u> <u>Topics include:</u> • The role and purpose of education • Differential educational achievement • Relationships and processes within schools • The significance of educational policies • Research Methods and education • Sociological Theory • Globalisation	<u>Assessment</u> Essay and shorter questions on each topic area 2 hour exam at end of course
<u>Paper 2</u> <u>Topic Content</u>	<u>Topics paper</u> <u>Families and Households</u> • The family, social structure and social change	<u>Assessment</u>

	• The family and social policy • Demographic trends and family life • Marriage, divorce and family diversity • Domestic labour, power relationships and the family • The social construction of childhood	Essay and shorter questions on each topic Exam at end of course 1 hour each unit and in each exam students answer 3 questions, 2 x 10 marks and 1 x 20 marks (essay)
--	---	---

We follow the AQA A level Sociology Specification which is available to print off for your folder at:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/sociology/specifications/AQA-7191-7192-SP-2015.PDF>

The Exam Papers

Paper 1 Education with Methods in Context	33% 2 hour written exam 50 marks education 20 marks Methods in Context 10 marks Theory and Methods
Paper 2 Topics in Sociology Families and Households Global Development	33% 2 hour written exam 40 marks families 40 marks Global Development
Paper 3 Crime and Deviance with Theory & Methods	33% 2 hour written exam 50 marks Crime and Deviance 30 marks Theory & Methods

Equipment Required for the Course

Organisation is central to success. Please ensure to bring the following equipment to your first lesson: -

- Double Arched lever file
- Pens - Black/Blue and a different colour for improvements to answers
- Highlighters
- Sticky Notes

We will check your folders term 2, term 4 and term 6. These need to be divided into topics.

Resources

- Sociology for AQA Sociology A Level Year 1 & Year 2 (Collins)
- Sociology Review (Philip Allan)
- Tutor2U Revision Guides

Unfortunately, students cannot rely on just using these resources as examiners expect to see a **broad range of knowledge, from a range of texts and up to date sociological case examples**. You will also be required to build a collection of news articles and documentary summaries. Society is changing all of the time and examiners expect you to show knowledge of this, so you must listen to the news headlines and read news websites every day.

Essential websites you need to access on a regular basis

<u>Website</u>	<u>Website Address</u>
BBC.News	www.news.bbc.co.uk
Equal Opportunities	www.eoc.org.uk
Joseph Rowntree	www.jrf.org.uk
Government Statistics	www.gov.stats.co.uk (www.dfES.co.uk)
Society Guardian	www/society.guardian.co.uk
The Guardian	www.guardian.co.uk
The Times	www.thetimes.co.uk
Sociology Revision Maps	www.sociology.org.uk/downmaps.htm
Quizlet	www.quizlet.co.uk

Other Resources - Newspapers & Journals

All Sociology students should be reading quality newspapers on a weekly basis gain up to date knowledge. Listed below are some useful links to journals that will support your study.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Publisher</u>	<u>Address</u>
Sociology Review	Philip Allan Updates	www.philipallan.co.uk

Enrichment Opportunities and Study Trip

- Enrichment opportunities will enhance your knowledge of the content Studied at A level Sociology and help bring your learning to life. You will be invited to attend revision conferences.
- You will also be invited to attend university social sciences taster days. They provide a variety of excellent workshops for students to experience.
- Many students organise work experience, you could apply to the local council, the library or university.

Combine this course with:

A Level Sociology is often combined with one essay-based subject (English, Psychology, Law, Media, Geography or History) and one logic-based subject (Maths, Science).

At University, students often combine subjects such as Law, Psychology, Biology or Forensic Science or Criminology.

Summer Preparation Tasks

Due on A Level Sign Up Day

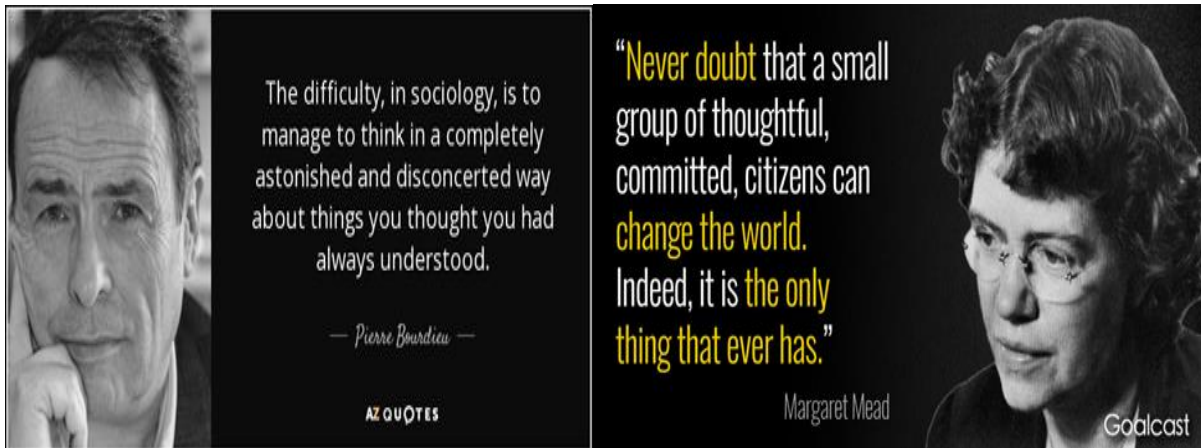
Task to complete	Complete please ✓
1. Define the following terms in your own words using examples from UK society: • Consensus theory • Conflict theory • Class • Age • Gender • Ethnicity • Stratification • Subculture • Functionalism • Marxism • Feminism • Neo-Marxism • Social Action Theory • Post-modernism • Interactionism Use Harvard referencing to show your references A Guide to Harvard referencing	
2. Watch the video The wisdom of sociology and then based on what you have learnt from the video and the box above write at least 20 lines explaining: • What sociology is? • What sociologists do? • How sociologists carry out research? • Three famous sociological studies? • What social policy is? • How social policy links to sociology? • Include your references	
3. Explain the New Right perspective on the following: • Education • The family	

• Crime and deviance • Politics • Include your references	
4. Explain the term postmodernism and explain their perspective on: • Education • The family • Crime and deviance • Politics • Include your references	
5. Research and create a timeline of the history of education from the 1900's: • Your timeline must show key changes in education policy from 1900 to 2020 • It must also indicate which political party was in government at the time. • Include your references	
6. Research how childhood has change over the past 50 years: • Interview a student, a parent/auntie/uncle and a grandparent about what their childhood and school experience was like or use the internet to research childhood over 50 years ago. • What did they do for their leisure • How were they taught to behave/what happened if they did anything wrong? • What pocket money did they get? • What rules were there • Write your own summary of how childhood has changed. • Include your references	
7. Research a toxic masculinity, include: • What is it? • How is it exhibited? • What is the impact on men? • What is the impact on women? • What is the impact on society? • Include your references	
8. Produce a timeline using PPT (a slide for each point on your timeline) which shows social change for women over the past 150 years: • What was life like for women 150yrs ago? • When did women get the vote, how does this advance equality • When did women get equal pay? • When was the Sex Discrimination Act? • When was rape in marriage ended? • When did companies have to start reporting the pay gap? • What is the pay gap in the UK and around the world? • Which countries are the most/least equal for women? • What conclusions can be drawn about gender and social change? • Include your references	

9. Select and print out 6 articles in the news relating to:

- Culture and identity
- Class
- Age
- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Education
- The Family

Summarise each article



Writing a Summary

- Name of the article
- What is about?
- Who wrote and when?
- Which area of sociology does it link to?
- Key points that you can use as examples for this area of sociology?
- The reference for this article with the date you accessed it

Command Verbs

It is important that you understand what you need to focus on in your answers to exam questions. How well you use the command verb will relate to how many marks you get in the exam.

Command	What it means
Outline	Describe the main features of a sociological concept or perspective
Explain	Make points and show the reasons why.
Apply	Use examples from UK society or a source.
Evaluate	Give strengths and limitations, draw conclusions
Analyse	Make links, offer criticisms or draw conclusions