

Sociology Transition Work



Name:

AS-Level Sociology

We study the AQA specification, and study the following topics:

Year 1

1. Education
2. Families
3. Research methods

Year 2

4. Beliefs in society
5. Crime and deviance
6. Theory and Methods

These are divided into two papers at AS Level , which are each 1hr 30 min exams, three papers at Alevel which are 2 hr exams and make up 100% of your final grades

You can find the specification

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192/specification-at-a-glance>

Previous students have said:

‘Through studying sociology it has changed my view on society significantly. Society for me can never be seen as black and white as external and internal factors affect all individuals differently, meaning all do not get the same opportunities or chances in life. The inequalities within society are highlighted’

‘In sociology I have learnt and understood that sociology is constantly involved in all of our lives. I was able to better understand how our lives change and how they are shaped by social constructs and social structure. I was able to understand the behaviour and struggle of different types of people in society, for example the struggles that ethnic minorities face in and out of school with factors such as parenting, material deprivation and home life playing a big part in how well they are able to achieve in school.’

Introduction

You may have studied Sociology for GCSE, or you may never have heard of it before.

Sociology refers to the study of society – the way people interact together in society, and how society shapes us and our decisions. Studying sociology will help you to understand different perspectives, to write analytical essays and crucially, to understand the same issue can be seen from multiple perspectives. One of the main issues we study in sociology is equality – how and why society is unequal, and why different people have different chances of succeeding in life. This will be the focus of this work pack.

Sociologists believe society can be broken down into different parts: social institutions. These include: education, the family, the mass media (TV and newspapers), the criminal justice system, health and religion. These different parts work together and play an important role in shaping our lives. They also believe that every society has a culture, which means a way of life, and a set of norms (expected behaviours) and values (what we hold to be important).

Quick check: find and write out the definitions of the following words.

Sociology	
Sociologist	
Social institutions	
Norms	

Values	
Sanctions	
Primary socialisation	
Secondary socialisation	
Social control	
Social Stratification	

In Sociology, there are three main different sociological perspectives, or ways of looking at society:

1. **Functionalists:** these sociologists believe society runs smoothly, and is made up of different parts which all work together to keep society stable. They believe people agree on what is important (there is a value consensus) and people generally conform to the norms of society. They tend to focus on the positive functions of different parts of society. Watch this video to find out more:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-83vVeSC2_g
2. **Marxists:** based on the ideas of Karl Marx, they focus on inequalities based on social class (how much or little money someone has). They believe this is the main inequality in society. They argue there are two main classes: the working class (proletariat) and ruling class (bourgeoisie) and believe the ruling class own and exploit the workers, treating them badly and giving them low pay so they can make more money for themselves. Watch this video and find out more:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSQgCy_iIcc
3. **Feminists:** see gender inequality, inequality between men and women, as the main inequality in society. They argue women are treated badly and exploited by men,

and that society is patriarchal (male-dominated). Watch this video to find out more:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D6Dl-9pSW-4>

Complete the table to summarise the different perspectives:

	Summary	Image
Functionalism		
Marxism		
Feminism		
Interactionism		

Complete the following research tasks and answer the questions:

Class

a. Why rich kids are so good at the marshmallow test

Read the article and answer the question.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/family/archive/2018/06/marshmallow-test/561779/>

Questions: Define immediate gratification and delayed gratification. What does the most recent research tell us about delayed gratification? How does this link to family structure?

b. The stark relationship between income inequality and crime

Read the article and answer the question.

<https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2018/06/07/the-stark-relationship-between-income-inequality-and-crime>

Questions: According to this article, how does wealth influence people's perception of crime?

Age

a. NHS faces staggering increase in cost of elderly care, academics warn.

Read the article and answer the questions.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/may/24/nhs-faces-staggering-increase-in-cost-of-elderly-care-academics-warn-dementia>

Questions: What impact is an ageing population having on public services? Is there anything that can be done to change this?

Gender

a. Miss America waves bye-bye to bikinis

Read the article and answer the questions.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-44370240>

Questions: What factors have contributed to making this change? How does this link to the objectification of women? How would feminists view this?

b. 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?

Ethnicity

a. 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?

b. 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>

Question: Define the term ethnocentric curriculum. What changes would you suggest need to be made, if any, to the UK's education system?

v. Independent Research: Additional ideas linking Sociology and your life situation

The following research task focuses on you as an individual in relation to your area and how factors may compare on a national scale. The tasks aim to encourage you to consider a range of sociological themes. Remember to try and view sociology as holistically as possibly.

1. Street Check

View the latest demographic information for your area.

www.streetcheck.co.uk

Questions: What are employment rates in your area? What is the gender split in your area?
How does the median age in your area compare to the national age?

2. View Crime Statistics on your street or within a one-mile radius

Compare crime rates for your postcode and/or future university.

<https://www.crime-statistics.co.uk/>

Question: What does the crime information tell you about the respective areas? What does the crime information not tell you about the respective areas?

If you have any questions about any work in this pack, please don't hesitate to contact me via email: cbagnall6@swakeleys.org.uk

Further reading/ watching/ listening if you wish to explore.

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)
Films	• Billy Elliott (2000) • Dangerous Minds (1995) • East is East (1999) • Made in Dagenham (2010) • Freedom Writers (2007) • The Kids are All Right (2010) • The History Boys (2006)

Wider Reading	• 'The Sociology Review', A Level magazine: Hodder Education. By subscription or in the 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)
Podcasts	http://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/departmentsociologypodcasts https://www.spreaker.com/show/the-sociology-show www.anchor.fm/allsociology www.measureradio.libsyn.com/podcast www.socialsciencespace.com/author/socialsciencebites www.thesocialbreakdown.com www.soundcloud.com/thesociologicalreview www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qy05
Websites	www.theguardian.com/education/sociology www.nytimes.com/topic/subject/sociology www.tutor2u.net/sociology/blog www.gendersociety.wordpress.com www.creativesociology.blogspot.com www.sociologylens.net www.blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/ https://revisesociology.com/ https://www.senecalearning.com/ https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192 https://thesociologyguy.com/a-level-sociology/ https://napierpress.com/
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
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