



# A Level Sociology: Transition Booklet



# What is Sociology?

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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.

# The Sociology A-level specification:

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Sociology A-level is a two year course, where all external exams are sat at the end of Yr13.

<b><u>Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods</u></b>	<b><u>Paper 2: Topics in Sociology</u></b>	<b><u>Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods</u></b>
<b>Content:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Education</li><li>✓ Methods in Context</li><li>✓ Theory and Methods</li></ul>	<b>Content:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Families and Households</li><li>✓ Stratification and Differentiation</li></ul>	<b>Content:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Crime and Deviance</li><li>✓ Theory and Methods</li></ul>
<b>Assessment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ 2 hour written exam</li><li>✓ 80 marks</li><li>✓ 1/3 A Level</li></ul>	<b>Assessment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ 2 hour written exam</li><li>✓ 80 marks</li><li>✓ 1/3 A Level</li></ul>	<b>Assessment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ 2 hour written exam</li><li>✓ 80 marks</li><li>✓ 1/3 A Level</li></ul>

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>



# Summer Tasks:



## Task 1- CULTURE:

Culture is one of the fundamental concepts in sociology, however the theorist Raymond Williams once described 'culture' as one of the most difficult words in the English language to define. For some, culture is about the best that 'has been thought and said in the world'. In other words, culture is about great art, great literature, and great thought. However, for others, such as Raymond Williams culture is 'ordinary'. Culture is not just about what talent artists do, but it is what we all do. It is how we live.

Sociologists highlight that culture is made up of NORMS of expected behaviour and VALUES which are ideas held to be important. Culture may also include SHARED BELIEFS, LANGUAGE, RITUALS AND CUSTOMS, ART, and LITERATURE

### Your task is to outline the features of British culture

- This outline could be in the form of a report, cartoon, diagram or collage.
- Do you think shared culture exists? What problems are there with this concept?

## Task 2- SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES:

A level Sociology involves learning about competing perspectives on society, these views are referred to as sociological theories. It is essential that you have an understanding of these perspectives as their competing views will inform your analysis of society.

### Your task is to carry out independent research using the internet to find out key information about the five main sociological perspectives

#### Use this table to summarise your findings

	FUNCTIONALISM	MARXISM	FEMINISM	SOCIAL ACTION THEORY	POSTMODERNISM
KEY IDEAS					
KEY THEORISTS (WRITERS)					
CRITICISMS					

- Please do not just 'cut and paste', write it in your own words to show your understanding

# Useful links:

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Here are some links to help you with, task 2:

<https://youtu.be/dhhdPgVzkwU> - Introduction to functionalism

<https://youtu.be/neMb-8MkXUk> -Introduction to Marxism

<https://youtu.be/jFOIIM8IRZU> -Introduction to Social Action theories

<https://youtu.be/SIA-r8wSMKQ> -Introduction to Post-Modernism

<https://revisesociology.com/2017/02/03/feminist-theory-summary-sociology/> -Introduction to feminism.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact:

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The logo for 'Helpful LINKS' features the word 'Helpful' in a large, blue, cursive script font. Below it, the word 'LINKS' is written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif, all-caps font.