

A Level Sociology
Transition Pack



AQA A Level Sociology

Transition Pack

Welcome!

Welcome to the Social Sciences Department and the A Level Sociology course. The challenges of A Level are a significant step up from GCSE and this can seem daunting at first. This is nothing to worry about and you will receive plenty of support from September. In the meantime, it is recommended that you use the next few months to prepare for this new course.

The pack includes an overview of what you will study during the first year of the course, should you join it, together with a series of introductory tasks for you to work through. The tasks are designed to help you get to grips with some of the key terms you will need to know, as well as concepts you will learn about as a student of A Level Sociology.

To access the Sociology A Level course in September, you will need to complete the tasks set out in this pack and also meet the course entry requirements, which can be found in the sixth form course listing document.

The following website is particularly useful for researching the topics you will be studying in sociology - <https://www.revisesociology.com>

A Level Sociology

In order to excel in A Level Sociology, and assist your development in preparation for your next steps after sixth form, you must actively engage in independent study in addition to your timetabled lessons. The ability to conduct independent research is a skill that will undoubtedly support your university applications and/or future job applications.

Specification

At Forge you are studying AQA A Level Sociology, the full specification for which can be found here:

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

It is recommended that you refer to this specification regularly as your independent study should involve you reading ahead of topics we have not yet covered in lessons. Your sociology teachers will provide you with specific guidance of what you could focus on whilst completing your own research.

Revision techniques

You should avoid merely reading over your notes continuously. Instead, you should summarise your 'core notes' to make them more concise and organised. Your sociology teachers will provide specific guidance on this but the most common successful revision strategies involve:

- Creating a revision timetable which focuses on specific skills for a topic.
- Producing your own revision cards and/or mind maps for the topic.
- Designing your own fact sheet or memory board for the topic.
- Creating sample answers to exam questions.
- Answering scenario based questions.

Question Bank

The exam board provides a question bank, which can be accessed here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192/assessment-resources>

You can use the question bank to find questions on key topics you want to test yourself on or revise and then use the accompanying mark scheme to mark your answers.

YouTube

YouTube contains many clips and podcasts on topics relevant to your sociology A level. For instance, it's recommended you subscribe to TheTEACHERSOCIOLOGY and Tutor2U on YouTube where you will find good summaries of the topics we cover in sociology.

MOOCs

MOOCs – Massive Open Online Courses- are online courses that provide videos, reading lists and activities. You often don't need to formally complete the course and many are free. There are a number of sociology related ones available at the sites listed on the next page. Whilst these are not directly linked to your A Level course, delving into them will certainly develop your knowledge and understanding of sociology.

- FutureLearn – www.futurelearn.com
- EdX – www.edx.org
- Coursera – www.coursera.org

The Media

One of the best things you can do as a sociology student is to explore the media for sociology related articles and stories. Let your sociology teachers know of any movies or documentaries which relate to the content we're covering in class. For example, the

documentary and movie on The Central Park Five highlights issues of racism within the criminal justice system which we explore in the second year of the course.

Reading list- Useful Websites

It's recommended that you regularly use the following websites:

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology> - a useful site featuring lots of articles and revision notes relevant to your A level. You can also subscribe to them on YouTube.

<https://revisesociology.com/> - a very useful website which summarises the topics we study in Sociology. It also contains some sample answers to potential essay questions.

<https://studywise.co.uk/a-level-revision/sociology/> - another useful website which summarises the topics we cover in A Level Sociology.

<https://collins.co.uk/pages/secondary-sociology-aqa-a-level-sociology> - another useful website for sample answers. This website links to one of the textbooks we will be using in our lessons.

Gojimo – this is a free sociology revision app you might want to use.

Reading list- Text Books

A good summary of the Year One content (reference copies available in the Sociology Department) -

https://www.amazon.co.uk/AQA-Level-Sociology-Book-Including/dp/0954007913/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=AQA+A+Level+Sociology&qid=1563282936&s=gateway&sr=8-1

A good summary of the Year Two content (reference copies available in the Sociology Department) -

https://www.amazon.co.uk/AQA-Level-Sociology-Book-2/dp/0954007921/ref=sr_1_2?keywords=AQA+A+Level+Sociology&qid=1563282955&s=gateway&sr=8-2

A detailed overview of the Year One content (reference copies available in the Sociology Department) -

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Haralambos-Holborn-level-Sociology-Perspectives/dp/0008242771/ref=sr_1_8?keywords=AQA+A+Level+Sociology&qid=1563282955&s=gateway&sr=8-8

A detailed overview of the Year Two content -

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Sociology-AQA-2-2nd-Year-Level/dp/0745696945/ref=sr_1_11?keywords=AQA+A+Level+Sociology&qid=1563282955&s=gateway&sr=8-11

General revision for A Level Sociology (reference copies available in the Sociology Department)

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Level-Sociology-Complete-Revision-Practice/dp/1782943560/ref=sr_1_3?keywords=AQA+A+Level+Sociology&qid=1563282955&s=gateway&sr=8-3

Develop your interest of Sociology further

There are many documentaries and movies which highlight many of the sociological issues we will be learning about during our lessons. Some notable examples include:

Documentary about the murder of Stephen Lawrence.

Documentary about the Central Park Five.

The Truman Show.

A Level Sociology: Preparatory Tasks

Please complete each of the tasks set out in the rest of this transition pack and bring your answers and/or findings with you to the first lesson in September 2020 if you join the course.

Submission: should be a comprehensive written or typed set of answers. If you use other websites to get answers please do not copy from them create a list of all websites used and hand this in with your work. If you complete your work on goggle docs please share with ricky.dhatt@oatfroge.co.uk - with editing rights so that work can be marked.

Sociology is the study of society. At the end of two years, you will have three exams. The topics we cover are as follows:

1. Education with Theory and Methods
2. Families & Households
3. The Media
4. Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

Families and Households

In the Families and Households topic you will study how families have changed over time. Traditionally, the nuclear family (a married heterosexual couple with children) was seen to be the only family type. However, we now see numerous family types such as lone parents and same sex relationships.

Tasks

1. Use this link <https://revisesociology.com/2015/04/25/trends-in-family-and-household-diversity/> to summarise how families are more diverse today. You could complete this as a mindmap or create a set of flash cards which will help you revise this topic.
2. Find the Childhood section on this link <https://revisesociology.com/sociology-family-revise/> to complete the same task as above but this time it is on how the concept of childhood has changed. In the Victorian period it was the norm for children to work. Today, children are seen to need protection and whilst they are better protected it could be argued that children are more controlled today.

Education and Theory & Methods

<https://revisesociology.com/>

This website will help you develop a great understanding of the basics in A level Sociology. I would strongly advise you using this website to grasp an understanding and completing the following tasks:

1. Explain the contribution of the following in education:
 - Social class
 - Gender
 - ethnicity

Think about the internal and external factors that have an impact

2. Explain the role of education in society
3. Pick THREE educational policies and explain them in detail. Can these be linked to each other? If so, explain how.
4. Can you explain the Functionalist, Marxist and New Right perspective on education?
5. What does P.E.T stand for in theory and methods?
6. Can you identify and explain the different types of data sociologists may use?
Can you explain at least THREE different methods sociologists may use when conducting research?