



Wath Sixth Form Subject Preparation Pack

SOCIOLOGY

World-class learning

World-class learning every lesson, every day

The highest expectations

Everyone can be successful; always expect the highest standards

No excuses

Create solutions not excuses; make positive thinking a habit

Growth mindset

Believe you can improve; work hard and value feedback

Never give up

Resilience is essential; be relentless in the pursuit of excellence

Everyone is valued

Diversity is celebrated; see the best in everyone

Integrity

Be trustworthy and honest; deliver on promises and walk the talk

A Level Sociology Transition Pack

Contents

- What is Sociology?
- Why should I study Sociology?
- What careers could A Level Sociology lead to?
- What will I study?
- How will I be assessed?
- Recommended resources
- Additional support
- Meet the staff
- Sociology activities

What is Sociology?

Sociology is the study of society and is about understanding how and why society changes. Sociology involves investigating reasons behind patterns within society and why people may behave in certain ways. Sociologists study a wide range of topics varying from studying the family, education, belief systems to crime. Sociology is an evidence-based subject, sociological findings are based on research which is carried out to find out whether their theories are correct. Sociology and sociological research influences everyday life as this can be used by governments to improve society. Put simply, if you are interested in finding out why society is the way it is then this is the course for you!

Why should I study Sociology?

Sociology is an incredibly useful subject to study as it involves an understanding of the society and world we live in, moreover it gives you an understanding of people and their behaviour. Additionally, it enables you to discuss social issues in an informed manner. In short, Sociology should be studied as it is undeniably relevant to the world today. Sociology allows you to develop a number of key skills that will not only benefit your other Key Stage Five subjects, but importantly, any further study you may undertake as well as future employment. This includes:

- Critical thinking
- Reasoning and logic
- Analysis
- Evaluation
- Application
- Independent research skills
- Data analysis and interpretation of data
- Empathy
- Oracy

What careers could Sociology lead to?

The knowledge and skills you develop in Sociology are really useful for careers which involve both working with people in addition to those where analytical and evaluation skills are required such as those within the following sectors:

- Education – primary and secondary teachers
- Media – journalism
- Social services – social work, counselling

- Health - nursing, midwifery
- Politics – MP, MEP
- Legal– Police officers, lawyers, solicitors, probation officers, prison officers
- Business– business owner, managing director, human resources.

What will I study?

At Wath Academy we cover the **AQA** syllabus which covers a breadth of knowledge split across **three** papers.

Paper 1

Education with Theory and Methods

Topic 1 - Education

This topic looks at patterns within education and uncovers reasons for differences in achievement between different social classes, genders and ethnicities. It aims to uncover answers to the following questions - why do girls do better than boys? Why do middle class students do better than working class students in education? How big of an impact does your teacher have on how well you do in school? Additionally, this topic looks at sociological perspectives on education and the influence social policy has on education.

Topic 2 - Methods in Context

This topic looks at how to conduct sociological research and the strengths of weaknesses of each method applied to education.

Topic 3 – Theory and Methods

This topic explores the key debates within Sociology such as: is Sociology a science? Should Sociology be objective? How do we research society? Which is the best way to research society?

Paper 2

Topics in Sociology

Topic 1 – Families and Households

This topic looks at an area of key interest in Sociology – Families and Household. It aims to answer questions such as – why are less people getting married, but more people are getting divorced? Why and how has childhood changed? Why are people having less children? Why do men and women take on different roles in the family?

Topic 2 -Beliefs in Society

This topic investigates sociological explanations regarding belief systems within society. It aims to answer questions such as – has science replaced religion? Why do people join cults and sects? What role does religion play in modern society? Why are women more religious than men? Is religion in decline and why?

Paper 3

Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

Topic 1 Crime and Deviance

This topic investigates the Sociology of Crime and Deviance. Within this topic we aim to uncover answer to questions such as: why do men commit more crime than women? Who is likely to be a victim of crime and why? Can we trust statistics on crime? How can we prevent crime? Does prison work?

Topic 2 – Theory and Methods

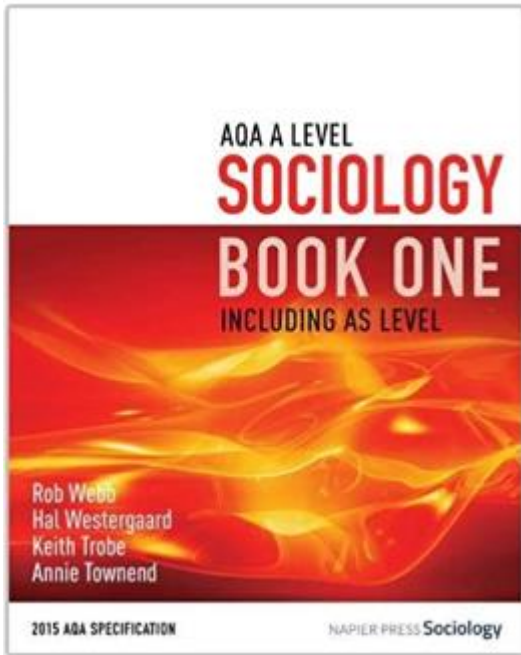
This topic is assessed across both paper 1 and paper 3. It explores the key debates within Sociology such as: is Sociology a science? Should Sociology be objective? How do we research society? Which is the best way to research society? Do we live in a postmodern society? How can Sociology influence social policy and should it?

How will I be assessed?

AQA assesses all content at the end of the course meaning that you will sit 3 x 2 hour exams in the summer of Y13. As a department, we conduct ongoing assessment throughout the two years which will reflect the full spectrum of skill and question styles assessed by the exam board. This ranges from 4 mark questions to extended 10/20/30 mark essay based questions.

Recommended resources

AQA A Level Sociology Book One Including AS Level: Book one



This is the textbook predominately used within school and covers all the topics you will study during Y12. You may wish to purchase this to help with the tasks in this booklet and to support your learning over the next two years, however, this is not essential. If you are unable to purchase a copy of this, please refer to a wealth of free, high quality online resources below.

Websites

Tutor2u

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/reference>. This website offers a range of 'study notes' and videos that can be useful to supplement your studies.

The Hectic Teacher

<https://hecticteachersalevelsociologysite.wordpress.com/>. This is a fantastic website which offers resources ranging from work booklets, question banks, check lists and summary sheets to name a few! Highly recommended!

The Teacher Sociology

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheTEACHERSOCIOLOGY>. This is a YouTube channel which is run by a highly experienced Sociology teacher and examiner. This is a fantastic resource for developing exam technique.

Additional resources

The following resources may or may not link directly to the specification but are useful in developing your wider understanding of key theories and concepts.

Twitter

There is a range of Twitter accounts you can follow regarding Sociology:

@SociologySup

@tutor2uSoc

@BrowneKen

@Wath_RSS

Films/TV shows

Will Britain ever have a black prime minister?

Growing up Gifted

The Up series

Harrow: A Very British School

Educating Yorkshire/Essex/Greater Manchester series

Grammar Schools: Who Will Get In?

Growing Up Poor

Are Our Kids Tough Enough? Chinese School

School Swap: A Class Divide

Meet the A-Level Sociology Staff

We currently have 2 members of staff that teach A-Level Sociology. If you chose to study A-Level Sociology at Wath Academy you will have 6 lessons a week, this will be split between two teachers. Our A-Level team are highly experienced and passionate about teaching Sociology and are incredibly supportive of our students.

Miss K Cooke

Sociology and Criminology Subject Leader



I love teaching Sociology as it is absolutely fascinating! I feel so privileged to be able to teach and lead a subject that I am incredibly passionate about. Sociology is one of the most interesting subjects there is as it is about modern society and the world we live in today! Everything can be seen from a sociological perspective and I love analysing and evaluating things that happen within society from a sociological angle.

Mr C Shaw

Assistant Vice Principal



My aim as a teacher of Sociology is to inspire a love of learning and foster a curiosity to understand the world around us. Alongside this, I want students to develop the skills, character and qualifications needed for a happy and successful future.

I particularly enjoy teaching Paper 3 Crime and Deviance and exploring why people commit crimes, the role of prisons and how modern technologies influence crime rates. For example:

- What led to the London Riots in 2011?
- How does the dark web facilitate drug crimes?
- Did Carol Baskin kill her husband?

Aim: The aim of these tasks is to develop your understanding of key sociological content and key terms to ease the transition into the study of a new subject at A Level standard. As a new subject/course you will be exposed to a lot of key terms and studies – some of which can be quite daunting! By completing the tasks below, you will consolidate or develop knowledge of important content which will inevitably aid your understanding of the course over the next term.

What is Sociology?

Watch the following video and make notes on what Sociology is all about:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnCJU6PaCio>

What is Sociology?

Key terms

Define each of the key terms below (in relation to Sociology, not their general definition)

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/topics/group/education-key-terms>

Key term	Definition
Primary socialisation	
Secondary Socialisation	
Norms	
Values	
Beliefs	
Culture	
Social class	
Gender	
Ethnicity	

What are sociological theories?

What are sociological theories?

A theory is something that explains the relationship between two or more things. A perspective can be defined as a way of looking at and seeing something. To have a perspective, therefore, means to look at something (whatever that thing might be) in a particular way. When we talk about the sociological perspective, therefore, we are talking about the particular way these sociologists try to understand human social behaviour.

Use the internet to find out about the main sociological theories. For each one explain the main idea and concepts and the key sociologists:

- Functionalism
- Marxism
- Feminism
- Action Theories
- Postmodernism
- Which sociological perspective do you agree with? Why?

<https://revisesociology.com/sociology-theories-a-level/>

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/topics/group/theory-methods-key-terms>

Education

Define each of these key terms

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/topics/group/education-key-terms>

Key term	Definition
Ethnocentric curriculum	
Material deprivation	
Cultural deprivation	
Cultural capital	
Labelling	
Self-fulfilling prophecy	
Setting	
Streaming	
Subcultures	
Speech codes	
Immediate gratification	
Deferred gratification	
Feminisation of education	

Feminism	
Changing social attitudes	

Education

One of the key areas of interest for sociologists is that of levels of achievement between different social groups within education, notably the differences between working class and middle class, boys and girls and ethnic minorities and the white majority.

Class and education

Using the key words from the task above write down 6 reasons why there are differences between the achievement levels of working and middle class students. Try to explain why they impact on how successful students are in education.

-
-
-
-
-
-

Gender and Education

Watch the following clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X89xdbm4TZA>

Whilst you are watching the clip write down as many reasons as possible why girls are outperforming boys in education:

-
-
-
-
-
-

Ethnicity and Education

Watch the following documentary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KzFjbcdzqo4>

Do you think we will ever have a black prime minister? Why? How can we link this to education?

Family

Define each of these key terms:

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/topics/group/family-households-key-terms>

Key term	Definition
Bigamy	
Civil partnership	
Cohabitation	
Divorce	
Empty shell marriage	
Empty nest	
Extended family	
Living apart together	
Monogamy	
Polygamy	
Nuclear family	
Reconstituted family	

Families and Households

Research the changing family in the UK and answer the following questions:

- How has the family structure changed over the past 100 years? Why has this happened?
- How have the following policies affected the family?

The Divorce Act 1969 and 1984

The Paternity Act 2010

The Civil Partnerships Act 2004 and the Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Act 2013

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zi8qn39/revision/2>

<https://revisesociology.com/2015/12/17/social-policy-family/>

Education and Families in the news

- Find the definition of meritocracy. Write it below:
- Read the following news article <https://www.tes.com/news/few-one-20-born-poorest-areas-go-university> and answer the following questions:
 - Does this article suggest we live in a meritocracy?
 - Why is it important that 'poor' students go to university?
- Find 5 news articles that link to Education and/or Families. Download and print. Some things to look out for are: poverty, benefits, exam results, private education, educational achievement, free schools. There are lots of others you could find though!

<https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/Sociology>

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/sociology>

Crime and Deviance

Crime and Deviance

Using the internet, research the answers to the following questions:

- What is a crime?
- What is deviance?
- What are laws?
- What is a white collar crime?
- Moral crimes include offences such as prostitution, underage drinking and illegal drug use. Why do some people argue that such crimes are 'victimless'?
- What is cybercrime? Name some examples of cybercrimes.
- What is a hate crime?
- What do you think is more effective in reducing crime: crime prevention or harsher punishments?

<https://revisesociology.com/2016/10/06/crime-deviance-concepts-definitions/>

Go on the following websites and research crime in your area or the area near your school:

<https://www.police.uk/search/?next=policing%3Aforce%3Apcc%3Aindex>

<https://data.police.uk/> and answer the following questions:

- Where does most crime take place?
- What are the top 3 crimes/offences?
- Why do you think that those crimes are committed in your area? Think about socio-economic issues and location.

Beliefs in Society

Beliefs in Society

Using the internet research one religious organisation.

Sociologists identify 5 main types of religious organisation:

1. Churches
2. Denominations
3. Sects
4. Cults
5. New Age Movements (NAMs)

You will need to create an information leaflet or booklet about the religion you have chosen. You need to:

1. Research and write down a definition of the 5 main types of religious organisation
2. Identify the type of religion organisation and outline four characteristics of this type of organisation.
3. Outline the key beliefs of the religion.
4. Outline the key practices of the religion.
5. Outline the social characteristics (class, age, gender and ethnicity) of the type of person most likely to be a member of this the religion.

Research one of the following:

- ✓ Roman Catholicism
- ✓ Methodist
- ✓ Judaism
- ✓ Islam
- ✓ Pentecostalism
- ✓ Buddhism
- ✓ Church of Scientology
- ✓ Quakers
- ✓ Amish
- ✓ Wicca

Research Methods

Research Methods

In Sociology, data on society is collected in different way. You are going to conduct your own sociological survey and collect data on an aspect of society that particularly interests you (for example how did people cope with isolation during the Coronavirus pandemic? Why do girls achieve better grades than boys in school? How much impact does poverty have on life chances etc.)?

Questionnaires

You must design a questionnaire, with between 6-8 questions on your given area. You will need to break your topic up into smaller questions.

For example:

1. What is your age?
2. Are you male or female?
3. Did you go travelling because... (pick one)
 - You didn't want a job
 - You had family abroad
 - You wanted an adventure
4. Where did you go travelling?
5. Would you go travelling again? Yes/No

You will need to carry out your questionnaire on a range of different people. Aim to give your questionnaire to at least 8 people.

Task 2: Presenting your questionnaire findings

You will need to present your findings from the questionnaire in either in a graph or a pie chart and explain what you have found.