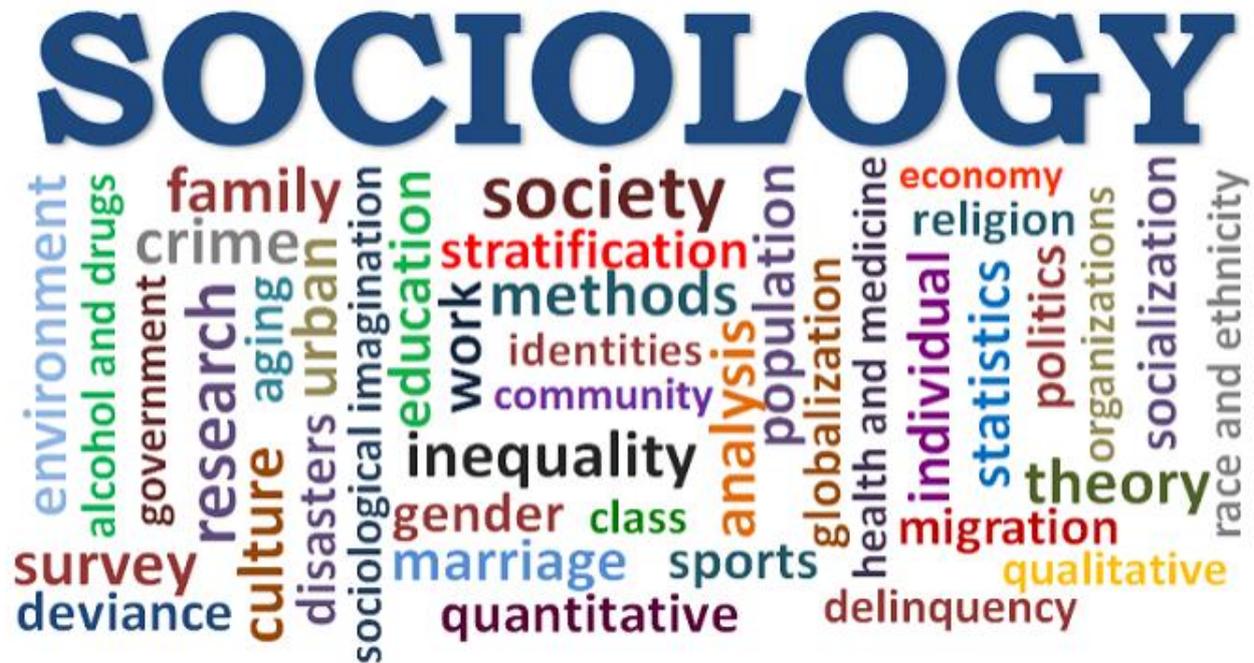


Kensington Park School Sixth Form - A Level Sociology



This booklet is designed to give you an understanding of what studying Sociology at A Level entails and includes some tasks to complete to get a head-start on the key topics within AS (Year one A Level) Sociology.

If you have any questions please email these to Ms Hodgkinson: l.hodgkinson@kps.co.uk

Key info:

Specification: **AQA**

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

Topics of study:

Year 12:

Theory and Methods

Education

Families and Households

Year 13:

Crime and Deviance

Global Development

The AQA Course

A Level Year 1

100% Exam (two papers),
0% Coursework

Sociology is a diverse subject with broad appeal. To give you some idea of the material covered over the two years here are some of the subject areas:

Socialisation	Role of education including the relationship to the economy and to class structure
Culture and Identity	Educational policies
The relationship of the family to the economy and to state policies	Marketisation and privatisation
Socialisation, culture and identity	Research methods such as questionnaires, interviews and experiments
Changing patterns of marriage..	Global Development
The nature of childhood	Feminism
Demographic trends in the UK	Functionalism
Ageing population, migration and globalisation	Aid and trade
Marxism	War and conflict
Childbearing including the diversity of contemporary family life	Postmodernism

What could this qualification lead to?

Sociologists work within many different fields such as law, education, politics, social work and international agencies. They also play a big role in shaping social policy by exposing and examining areas of inequality in society related to, for example, racism or ageism. Sociology is a great choice of subject for people who want a career in social work, nursing or medicine. But the subject is also useful in a number of other careers like marketing, advertising, PR, journalism, law or teaching.

What types of skills do sociologists require?

- Communicative – written and oral
- Analytic and evaluative
- Critical thinking
- Debating
- Creativity

What types of skills will I learn?

- How to use evidence to support your arguments
- How to investigate facts and use deduction
- How to put over your point of view fluently
- How to work as a team to achieve results
- How to take responsibility for your own learning

Useful websites:

- AQA - Example Assessment Material [AQA | AS and A-level | Sociology | Assessment resources](#)
- Crash Course Sociology - What is Sociology? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnCJU6PaCio>
- Thinking Allowed (Sociology Programme) – Radio 4 Wednesdays @ 4:00pm or on catch-up: www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qy05
- He For She Campaign www.heforshe.org/
- The Guardian/Observer newspaper www.guardian.co.uk
- The Sociological Imagination (Ted Talk) <http://sociologicalimagination.org/archives/tag/ted-talks>
- Violence against women—it's a men's issue: Jackson Katz at TEDxFiDiWomen (TedTalk) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KTvSfeCRxe8&safe=active>
- Richard Wilkinson: How Economic Inequality Harms Societies (TedTalk) http://www.ted.com/talks/richard_wilkinson
- Poor Kids (Poverty Documentary) - Real Stories <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9aSp9bFmMg>

Recommended reading:



What is sociology?

Complete the blank fill using the word bank at the bottom

Sociology is the study of _____ and of people and their behaviour.

Sociologists study a wide range of topics. For example, the AQA AS/A2 specification includes topics such as gender, stereotyping, race & ethnicity, class, sexism, social behaviour, social inequalities, marriage & divorce, schools, childhood and domestic violence.

In studying topics like these, sociologists create _____ to explain human behaviour and the working of society. Theories are _____ of the patterns we find in society. For example, we may have a theory as to why there are differences in girls' and boys' achievement levels in school.

A theory tries to make _____. That is, it tries to explain all similar cases, not just a single case. For example, it tries to say why boys in general do less at school than girls, rather than why simply this or that individual boy does less well.

Sociology is an _____ subject. This means it is not just about the sociologist's personal _____ or pet theory – our opinion and theories must be backed up by _____ about society. Sociologists therefore collect evidence methodically by carrying out _____ to establish whether their theories are correct. A _____ theory is one that explains the available evidence.

As well as producing theories about society, sociology has practical applications. For example, if we know the causes of social problems such as educational under-achievement, we may be able to use this knowledge to design social policies to improve children's educational opportunities. A _____ is a programme or plan introduced by government that aims to achieve a particular goal, such as raising educational standards or reducing crime rates. Governments may use the findings of sociological research to develop more effective policies.

evidence-based	theories	generalisations	society	explanations
opinion	facts	research	good	social policy

Independent research tasks

1. Functional Functionalists

Watch:

[What is Functionalism? Explained. - YouTube](#)

- Research Functionalism and produce a fact sheet outlining the “Organic Analogy”. What is it and how does it explain society?
- Write definitions for “free will” and “determinism” and explain the two sides of this argument.

Find other relevant material to help you.

2. Feisty Feminists

Watch:

[Emma Watson at the HeForShe Campaign 2014 - Official UN Video - YouTube](#)

[What It Means To Be A Feminist - YouTube](#)

Research Feminism (Type ‘What is Feminism’ into YouTube) and produce a fact sheet outlining feminism is.

Provide definitions of the key terms e.g. patriarchy.

Research examples of gender inequality within the UK in contemporary society. For example think about family, employment, politics, education, health, wealth, religion etc. Provide a list of at least 3 examples on your fact sheet.

3. Magnificent Marxists

Watch:

[What is Marxism? \(Karl Marx + Super Mario Bros.\) – 8-Bit Philosophy - YouTube](#)

Define all key words on the video clip.

Research Marxism and produce a fact sheet outlining the main arguments including the difference between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat.

Research examples of class inequality within the UK in contemporary society. Think about health, education, employment, housing etc. Add at least 3 examples and if possible explanations of these to your fact sheet.

[40 years after Thatcher: Inequality in the UK - BBC Newsnight - YouTube](#)

Extra suggestions for the summer

- Read some of the titles on the recommended reading list
- Visit change.org and see if there are any petitions you would support to bring about change
- Help out at a food bank
- Become a student member of Amnesty International
- Go to Parliament square in front of the Houses of Parliament where people protest.

TV series to watch include:

Panorama

Louis Theroux

Cutting Edge

Donal McIntyre (Undercover)

Witness

True Stories

Dispatches

The Simpsons