

Sociology - A Level

Progression to A Level Sociology at Hereford Sixth Form College.

Exam board AQA

We begin with discussing Sociology and how it is a study of society. Key theories such as Functionalism, Marxism, Feminism, New Right and Postmodernism are initially explored. The first theme is Education where we look at how the key theories view Education in relation to the role and purpose it serves in society.

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

The following is a brief explanation of just one of the theories on You Tube. There are also quick videos on the other theories too. These are useful to gain an initial understanding.

Marxism <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gR3igiwaeyc>

News

Its important as a sociologist to understand what's going on in the world and to try and relate theory to it. Here's a link to the latest news by the BBC

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

Class Textbook

Everything can be located in the textbook: Webb R, Westergaard H, Trobe K, Townend A . AQA A Level Sociology Book One. This is the class textbook but students are NOT required to purchase one. However, if you wish to have a copy at home that's fine.

Recommended Books

1. Chavs: The Demonisation of the Working Class, Owen Jones (2011)
2. Gang Leader for a Day, Sudhir Venkatesh (2009)
3. Respectable: The Experience of Class, Lynsey Hanley (2016)

Documentaries/TV

1. Harrow: A Very British School (Amazon Prime)
2. Educating Essex (Channel 4)
3. Secret Life of Four and Five Year Olds (Channel 4)
4. Storyville on iPlayer <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006mfx6>
5. Panorama on iPlayer <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006t14n>
6. Stacey Dooley documentaries

FILMS

1. Billy Elliott (2000)	5. The History Boys (2006)
2. Made in Dagenham (2010)	6. Suffragette (2015)
3. Freedom Writers (2007)	7. Lion (2016)
4. The Kids are All Right (2010)	8. I Daniel Blake (2016)

Twitter feeds

1. @TheSocReview – The Sociology Review A Level magazine
2. @DailySociology – sociology news every day
3. @SocImages – links to interesting articles and research
4. @TheSocCinema – pop culture and film links with sociology
5. @SassySociology – a PhD student specialising in gender, ethnicity and inequalities
6. @LearnSoc - this is the official twitter page of one of the largest sociology websites
7. @SociologyLens -provides links to current sociological topics, research and issues to debate

Task 1: What is Sociology?

In 100-150 words, summarise what you believe Sociology to be. This YouTube clip can be used to help you: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LK5J0-cM-HE>

Task 2: Key concepts

Find the definitions for the following concepts and create a glossary of key terms:

Socialisation Primary socialisation Secondary socialisation Agents of socialisation Institutions/Agencies in Society Norms Values Age Ageing population Achieved status Ascribed status Culture Ethnicity and Gender Identity Institutional racism Racism Sex discrimination Social Class	Useful websites to help with your preparation task: https://www.memrise.com/course/928320/aqa-sociology-key-terms/1/ https://www.sparknotes.com/sociology/glossary/terms/
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Task 3: Morning Routine Write a list of everything that you do in the order that you do it in, in the first hour after waking up in the morning. Now consider how your daily routine compares to those of your family and peers. List what you do the same and what you do differently. What does this tell us about ourselves as individuals? Are we born with this routine or socialised into it?

Task 4: Complete the following research tasks by reading the articles and answering the questions:

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

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

<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?

- c. Miss America waves bye-bye to bikinis <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?

- d. The Met 'use more force' against black people <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?

The following link to AQA highlights the topics we study: Paper 1 Education, Methods in context and Theory and Methods. Paper 2 Families and Households and Media. Paper 3 Crime and Deviance and Theory and Methods.

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