

**HIGHAM LANE
SIXTH FORM**

AQA 

A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY

HIGHAM LANE SIXTH FORM

Welcome to A Level Sociology!

A Level Sociology encourages you to think critically about society, question common assumptions, and explore how social structures influence our lives. This summer transition work will introduce you to some of the key ideas and debates you will encounter during your studies.

The aim of this transition work is to get you *thinking* like a Sociologist. You are expected to engage with all the tasks over the summer and should produce a portfolio of the work. This can be in whatever form you like: posters, infographics, essays, presentations etc. Be creative!

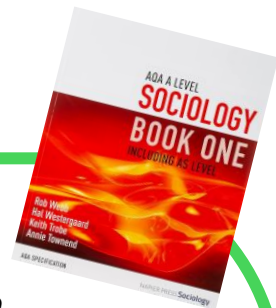
I look forward to seeing you in September.

Miss Walton
Teacher in Charge of Sociology

COURSE OVERVIEW – AQA A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods
What's assessed Compulsory content 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3
Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 hour written exam• 80 marks• 33.3% of A-level
Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education: short answer and extended writing, 50 marks• Methods in Context: extended writing, 20 marks• Theory and Methods: extended writing, 10 marks
Paper 2: Topics in Sociology
What's assessed Section A: one from option 1: 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.3 or 4.2.4 Families & Households Section B: one from option 2: 4.2.5, 4.2.6, 4.2.7 or 4.2.8 Beliefs in Society
Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 hour written exam• 80 marks• 33.3% of A-level
Questions Section A: extended writing, 40 marks Section B: extended writing, 40 marks
Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods
What's assessed Compulsory content 4.3.1, 4.3.2
Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 hour written exam• 80 marks• 33.3% of A-level
Questions Crime and Deviance: short answer and extended writing, 50 marks Theory and Methods: extended writing, 30 marks

USEFUL RESOURCES



Textbooks

Webb – Sociology- Written by the chief examiner. An extremely useful textbook that we would recommend you purchase to support your studies.

Steve Chapman, Martin Holborn, Stephen Moore and Dave Aiken- AQA A-level Sociology Year 1 and AS Student Book

David Bown, Laura Pountney, Tomislav Maric-AQA Sociology for A Level Year 1

Haralambos, Richardson, Taylor and Yeo – Sociology in Focus for AS

Haralambos and Holborn – Sociology – Themes and Perspectives- This is an extremely useful book for all topics in the course and one that will be referred to regularly. It is very worthwhile getting your own copy of this text.

Browne – Sociology for AQA

Periodicals

Sociology Review

British Sociological Journal

Useful Websites

www.sociology.uk.net –this is used in connection with the Webb textbook.

www.jrf.org.uk –The Joseph Rowntree Foundation is one of the largest independent social policy research charities in the UK

www.bbc.co.uk – The education, crime and families sections of the news are all particularly useful and it is worth reading these on a weekly basis.

www.statistics.gov.uk – this resource contains national statistics for the UK covering most areas of the course. They are also analysed for you.

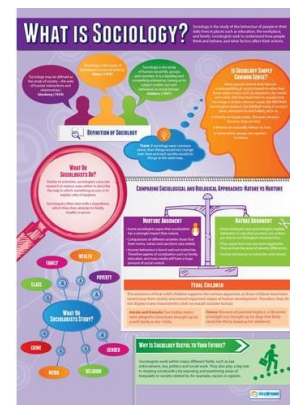
www.aqa.org.uk – this essential site has downloadable past papers and mark schemes for this course. It is used extensively throughout the course.

TASK 1: WHAT IS SOCIOLOGY?

The American sociologist C.Wright Mills (1916-1962) coined the term 'the sociological imagination'. He defined it as 'the vivid awareness of the relationship between personal experience and the wider society'. It is the ability to connect personal troubles to public issues.

Research the following questions:

- What is Sociology?
- Why do sociologists study society?
- How do sociologists study society?
- What is meant by the term "sociological imagination"?
- What are social norms and values?



Resources:

<https://www.britsoc.co.uk/what-is-sociology.aspx>

Produce a one-page summary sheet that includes:

- Answers to the research questions above
- Definitions of any relevant key terms
- Three things you learned about Sociology
- One question you would like to explore at A Level

TASK 2: NATURE OR NURTURE?

Research the concepts:

"Socialisation"
"norms and values"
"culture"

Then investigate:

- Nature vs Nurture debate
- How identity is formed
- Whether individuals have free will or are shaped by society (structuralism vs individualism)
- A case of a **feral child**



You may wish to watch the following documentary that details a shocking case of triplet boys separated at birth for a psychological experiment:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gmK6MyrqMgc>

Produce

- Write a 300-word response to the question:
Are we free to choose who we become, or does society shape our identity?
- You should support their answer with examples.



TASK 3: INTRODUCING SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES

Sociologists view social issues through different perspectives or 'lenses'. A sociological theory is a framework used by researchers to explain the social world. As an A Level sociologist, you will be expected to know about different sociological theories and their approach to studying society. A sociologist is a social scientist who studies human society, social behaviour, and the interactions between individuals, groups, and institutions.

Research the following perspectives:

- Functionalism
- Marxism
- Feminism
- New Right
- Postmodernism



For each perspective find out:

- What does it believe about society?
- What does it see as the main cause of inequality (if applicable)?
- Any key sociologists from the perspective e.g. Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Ann Oakley
- One strength of the perspective
- One criticism of the perspective

Suggested Resource

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/reference/sociological-perspectives-introduction-to-sociology>

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

Produce a comparison table or infographic showing:

Perspective	Main Ideas	View of Society	Key Sociologist	Strength	Criticism
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TASK 4: SOCIOLOGY IN THE NEWS

It is important that you can apply sociological theories to contemporary examples. You will be expected to keep up to date with current affairs and use these as examples in your essays!

Find one recent news story relating to any of the topics below:

- Education
- Families
- Crime
- Gender
- Social class
- Ethnicity
- Media
- Religion



The Guardian



[BBC News UK](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk)
[The Guardian Society Section](https://www.theguardian.com/society)

- Create a news analysis sheet including:
- Summary of the story (min. 100 words).
- Why it is sociologically interesting.
- Which social groups are affected.
- Which sociological perspective would be most useful in explaining it.
- **Stretch & Challenge** Find two different newspapers reporting the same story and compare how they present it.