



A-Level Sociology  
Summer Transition Work  
2025-2026

Welcome to A-level Sociology!

## **Sixth Form transition pack**

**Name:**

<b>QUALIFICATION</b>	<b>A-level Sociology</b>
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Exam board and link	AQA <a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk">www.aqa.org.uk</a>
Specification details	7192
Recommended online learning	<a href="https://revisesociology.com/">https://revisesociology.com/</a> <a href="https://www.senecalearning.com/">https://www.senecalearning.com/</a> <a href="https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology">https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology</a> <a href="https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192">https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192</a> <a href="https://thesociologyguy.com/a-level-sociology/">https://thesociologyguy.com/a-level-sociology/</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6VpoZj33Df_rNb8KymCczw">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6VpoZj33Df_rNb8KymCczw</a>

Please use this booklet to get a flavour of what Sociology is about. **Complete all of the activities in this booklet in readiness to begin your studies in September.**

Completing these activities will show your commitment to studying a new subject and will set you up for the start of Year 12 – Sixth Form study is hard work and there are no short cuts. Commitment to your studies is essential.

Good Luck!

## Welcome to A-level Sociology!

You have chosen a subject that will 'keep you on your toes' and make you think in ways you couldn't imagine. You will certainly have a very different outlook on society by the end of your course.



### Overview of the course:

This is a two-year course which ends with **three** two-hour papers each carrying an equal weighting towards your final A-level grade (A\*-E).

Topics we will cover will include:

#### Year 12

Introduction to Sociology  
Education  
Research Methods  
Health

Look at the specification for more detail about these topics. You can find this at:

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

#### Year 13

Media  
Theories of Sociology  
Crime & Deviance

You will be expected to know and understand:

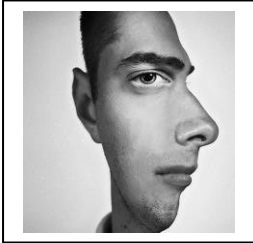
**(AO1)** the information about the topics, to be able to apply

**(AO2)** that knowledge and understanding and to be able to analyse and evaluate

**(AO3)** that knowledge and understanding.

## **An introduction to A Level Sociology**

**Sociology** is the study of human social life. There are many different aspects of Sociology to address, so you must be curious and attentive to looking at the world in a different way!



Look at this photograph; not everything is as it seems!

There is usually another way of looking at things – and that is what we do as sociologists. We take for granted, life and turn it upside down, look for meanings and very often we end up seeing things very differently.

### **Activity – What use is Sociology?**

#### **The sociological imagination**

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.

Mills gives the example of unemployment to illustrate the connection between the personal and the public, between the individual and the wider society. If only a small number of people are unemployed then their personal troubles probably lie in ‘their character, their skills and their immediate opportunities’. However, if 10 percent of the work force is unemployed then personal troubles are also public issues, and we must look to ‘the economic and political institutions of society’ for their solution.

Think of the personal problems associated with living in poverty, the experience of racism, and life with a physical disability. Assuming these problems are widespread, how they can be reduced? For Mills the solution lies in applying the sociological imagination, seeing personal problems as public issues and making changes to the wider society – for example, reducing inequality, passing laws against racism and improving facilities for disabled people.

For Mills ‘It is the political task of the social scientist – as of any liberal educator – continually to translate personal troubles into public issues, and public issues into the terms of their human meaning ... It is his task to display this kind of sociological imagination’.

(Source: C .Wright Mills, *The sociological imagination*, 1959)

**Task 1**

1. According to the sociologist C. Wright Mills, what is the political task of the social scientist (Student of human society and social relationships)?
2. Apart from the examples mentioned above, suggest other personal troubles which are also public issues.
3. The AQA Sociology course focuses on topics such as Education and Family, things that you have some experience of. How might this help you to develop your sociological imagination?

***Put your answers in the box below.***

Put your answers in this box:

### **Task 2**

Each group of statements represents a sociological theory. These theories see society in a different way from each other. **Circle/ highlight the statements you agree with and then explain why.**

**Feminists are interested in whether men and women are treated equally in society.**

- a) Men dominate.
- b) Gender inequalities exist.
- c) Women are systematically disadvantaged.
- d) Men and women are equal.

**Functionalists have a positive view of society. They think all groups in society (the family, education, media etc.) work together to help society run smoothly.**

- a) Society works for the benefit of all.
- b) Structures in society exist to help people and the smooth operation of society.
- c) We live in a democracy.
- d) People are judged only in terms of their merit / skills / intelligence.



**Marxists believe capitalist societies are unfair. The rich oppress the poor meaning they stay rich and the poor stay poor.**

- a) Capitalism is a fair system.
- b) People are not paid enough.
- c) Most people cannot see that they spend their entire lives being exploited.
- d) Our current system for organising the economy does not work.

## Social Change

The social world is changing some argue it is growing; others say it is shrinking. The important point to grasp is society does not remain static over time; it constantly changes - through decades and centuries and across countries, societies.

### **Task 3**

Think of 3 different ways society has changed over the last 100 years. Try to be specific about the change e.g. homosexuality is no longer illegal.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

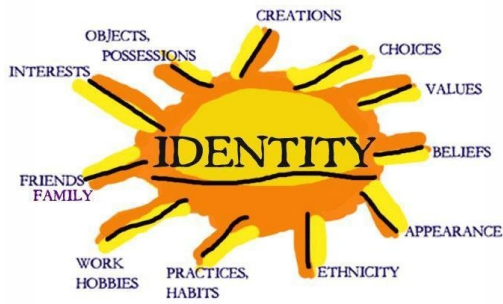
Now, name 3 ways in which British society is different to another (America, China etc.)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



### **Task 4**

Why do you think has society changed? Why are societies different? 8 – 10 lines



### Task 5

Who are you? Are you part of a group, an individual, a student, a brother, a sister? Identity is about how we see and define ourselves and how other people see us and define us. Many aspects of our individual identity are influenced by **agencies of socialisation**. These are structures or groups of people.

Suggest four examples of structures or groups of people that impact upon you:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

## **Structuralism**

Structuralism is concerned with the overall structure of society and the way social institutions like the family, the education system, the media and work act as a constraint on or limit and control, individual behaviour. Structuralist approaches have the following features:

The behaviour of individual human beings, the way they act and the formation of their identities are seen as being a result of social forces which are external to the individual – the individual is moulded, shaped and constrained by society through socialization positive and negative sanctions, and material resources like income and jobs. For example institutions like the family, the education system, the media. The law and the workplace mould us into our identities. According to the **structuralist** approach, the individual is like a puppet, whose strings are pulled by society. **Think about people being like jelly poured into a social mould to set.**

### **Task 6**

#### **1. How much is our behaviour moulded by social factors beyond our control?**

**Try to think of all the factors** which have contributed to the way you are now, and which prevent you from behaving in any way you like. **You might consider factors like** the influences of your parents and family background, the media, experiences at school, your friendship groups, income and so on.

#### **1. List 5 and give a short explanation as to why the factor has contributed to developing you as a person.**

#### **2. Imagine you were creating an ideal from scratch. Plan how you would organise it with particular reference to the following issues: Write down some key ideas you may have and how they may work:**

- The care and socialization of children
- The passing on of society's knowledge and skills from one generation to the next
- The production of food and other goods necessary for survival
- How you would allocate food and other goods to members of society
- How would you deal with people who don't conform to social rules

#### **3. Consider how your ideal society is similar to or different from the organisation of modern Britain. How would you explain the differences?**

**Answers here**