

WEST COVENTRY ACADEMY SIXTH FORM



SUBJECT TRANSITION BOOK
Summer 2025

SOCIOLOGY

STUDENT NAME:

This booklet has been prepared by the Sociology department for you to read and the work contained in it will ensure that you get off to the best possible start in this subject area. It is very important that you read this booklet carefully over the summer and have a thorough attempt to complete the work and submit it at the start of the year to your subject teacher in the very first lesson. This will be the first impression you create and is a real indicator of how serious you are prepared to be in your studies.

A-Level Sociology

The key member of staff is:

Mrs Hussain- StaffSMH@westcoventryacademy.org

Course Details

Course Title: A-level Sociology

Exam board: AQA

Exam Board web site: www.aqa.org.uk

Assessment method: Sociology is assessed by 4 units which are all examination based.

Minimum requirement: Standard entry requirements of five A*-C grades including English language.

About the course:

Sociology is a popular academic course that is firmly grounded in looking at how society functions. Sociology is the study of society. It is about looking at various parts of society and how they help mould us individually and collectively. Studying Sociology to A Level will help you to gain the essential knowledge and understanding of the world we live in today alongside central aspects of sociological thought and methods. The units we will cover are:

1. Families and Households (YR12)
2. Education and Research Methods (YR12)
3. Beliefs (YR13)
4. Crime and Deviance with Research Methods (YR13)

AS Sociology specification (YR12):

Unit 1: Education with Methods in Context is 50% of AS and covers:

- The role of the education system.
- Explanations of different educational achievements by gender, social class and ethnicity.
- Relationships and processes within schools.
- The significance of educational policies.
- The application of research methods to the study of education.

Unit 2: Research Methods and Topics in Sociology (Families and Households) is 50% of AS and covers:

- Changes in the family and household structure.
- Changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation and divorce.
- Changes within family roles, power relationships, and status.
- The changing nature of Childhood
- Demographics

Research Methods: exploring how Sociologists research society and what different methods they can use.

A2 Sociology specification (YR13):

Education with Theory and Methods is 33.3% of A Level

Topics in Sociology (Beliefs and Families and Households) is 33.3% of A Level

Unit 4 Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods is 33.3% of A Level

(Please visit www.aqa.org.uk for further details.)

Academic and Career Pathways

Sociology provides you with the skills required to study at a higher level whilst also developing the background knowledge that will be useful in the work place. This course lays an appropriate foundation for further study of sociology and related subjects in higher education. The valuable knowledge and transferrable skills will be useful for pursuing careers in the following fields:

- ❖ Nursing/Health Care
- ❖ Social Work
- ❖ Criminal Justice System i.e. Law
- ❖ Police
- ❖ Teaching
- ❖ Counselling

What equipment will be needed for the subject?

An A4 ring binder.

Dividers

Lined paper

Pens, pencils rulers

Please complete the following activities over the summer ready to hand in on the very first lesson in this subject:

Activity 1: What is Sociology?

Using the words below, fill in the blanks for basic knowledge about the subject of Sociology. You can use the Internet for additional help.

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.

Activity 2: The most important debate in Sociology!

<i>evidence-based</i>	<i>theories</i>	<i>generalisations</i>	<i>society</i>	
<i>explanations</i>	<i>opinion</i>	<i>facts</i>	<i>research</i>	<i>good</i>
<i>social policy</i>				

Nature VS nurture- the **HOT DEBATE** in Sociology!

One of the key debates in Sociology is Nature vs Nurture. Is individual behaviour affected by biology (Nature) or society (Nurture)?

Nature	Nurture
Our genetics, determine our behaviour. Our personality traits and our ability in nature.	Our environment upbringing, and life experiences determine our behaviour. We are “nurtured” to behave in certain ways.

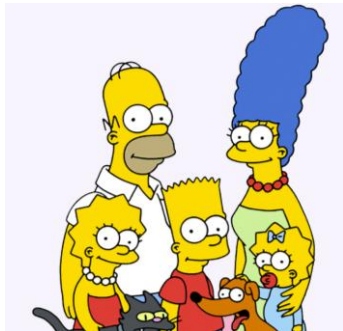
Identify some of the ways your behaviour is influenced by:

Genetics – how you naturally are

Your family/friends

Activity 3: Starter to the Family unit:

Look at the following pictures and decide whether you think they are a family or not:



The Simpsons



Madonna and adopted child



Ellen DeGeneres and Portia de Rossi



Jolie-Pitt clan

Now using the Internet answer these two questions:

1) What is the difference between a 'family' and a 'household'?

.....
.....

2) Has answering this question now changed your answers on the pictures? Explain why?

.....
.....
.....

Activity 4: Use the internet/textbooks to answer the following questions and then find the words in the word search.

1. What L is only one parent living with children?
.....
2. What H is one or more people living in the same dwelling?
.....
3. What E is the family with three or more generations in close contact?
.....
4. F is the theory that says traditional sociology is looking at society through men's eyes.
.....
5. What K is the term used to describe all family members related by blood or marriage?
.....
6. Which sociologist suggested that the nuclear family is "universal"?
.....
7. An Israeli commune?
.....
8. Which colleague of Karl Marx suggested that the family came into existence with the invention of private property?
.....
9. What P is the key feminist concept which refers to male dominance?
.....
10. Which two sociologists claimed industrialisation created the nuclear family?
.....

R A R L A G C Z T U B B I K O
Y O U N G A N D W I L M O T T
D E D N E T X E G O V Y D T D
U L U G Z B D I E A H X R B L
C N L F L Y D V O C W A W N O
P U I M K S I M R A E A U I H
R K X N D M J A G S G K J F E
A C D N T Y I H E A Q E P E S
O I A O W R S N M U C T O M U
Z E S N T V I G U E E E E I O
F M N A H K X X R Y W T N N H
H E P G K M Y K D R O V T I H
C P F K E S G C O Q O G N S Y
A G P P E L M T C S U N D T O
V Z L O N E S U K U B W X V R

Activity 5

Read the article on Education and Identity in Prisons and summarize the article.

Recommended textbooks:

AS textbooks

AS Level Sociology

Stephen Moore et al. (2008) Collins *Sociology AS for AQA*. Third edition. Harper Collins.

Rob Webb et al. (2008) *AS Level Sociology AQA*. Napier Press.

Anne Brown (2012) *Student Guide: AQA AS Families and Households*. New Edition. Philip Allan.

Useful websites

www.tutor2u.net – **Tutor2u** is an essential Sociology resource for all students. It contains an excellent Blog with relevant news stories, exam advice and analysis of topical events. It also has various quizzes, revision notes and Power Points for free.

www.bbc.co.uk/news/business - Keep up to date with current events in the world through the **BBC website**. Very easy to read and many helpful articles to gain real examples of the theory learnt in class. The news covered can be linked to any of the topics studied.

www.aqa.org.uk - **AQA** exam board for A-level Sociology containing full resources, specification, past papers and answers and exemplar student material.

How will the work produced here fit into subsequent work and the specification as a whole?

The first unit of the AS course is Families and Households. The activities and the reading done here will increase your understanding of this unit, making your transition easier. It will also provide the essential background information needed to understand the subject of Sociology.

Class expectations:

- Arrive to lesson on time with full equipment
- You will be issued with a work book for all homework and tests. This needs to be brought to **every** lesson
- Home will be set regularly, you need to ensure you have access to class charts to meet the deadlines that are set.
- Sociology is a subject of discussion and opinion. As your teacher I will actively encourage this, but it must be done in a respectful manner.
- When your teacher or others are speaking, do not speak over.
- Contributions to class discussions are **always** welcomed through the raising of hands.

SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!