



The Thomas Hardy School

Summer Preparation Task

A Level Sociology

Purpose of task:

To gain knowledge and understanding of the key sociological perspectives that will underpin all learning for the course.

Task:

Task 1: Using the resources suggested, you should write four paragraphs on the viewpoint of each of the sociological perspectives listed below:

- 1) Functionalism
- 2) Marxism
- 3) Feminism
- 4) The New Right

Task 2: Use the internet; answer these questions to understand some key terms in sociology:

- What is Socialisation?
- What are the two types of socialisation?
- Which groups or institutions are involved in socialisation?
- What are norms, values, roles?
- Identify a shared value in British society.
- Identify a social norm in British society.

Challenge task:

For each of the theoretical perspectives (Functionalism/Marxism/Feminism/New Right), can you summarise what their viewpoint would be on the role of the family and education.

Recommended resources:

We follow the AQA A-Level Sociology specification which can be found here:
<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/sociology/specifications/AQA-7191-7192-SP-2015.PDF>

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology>

<https://www.hectic-teacher.co.uk/sociology-support>

We pay for the Hodder magazine subscription which can be accessed here:

<https://www.hoddereducationmagazines.com/magazine/sociology-review/32/4/>

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Watch the news and read a good newspaper regularly to stay up-to-date with world affairs and current news issues.

Welcome to Sociology!! Sociology is the study of the workings of and various influences upon society. Sociologists aim to raise questions about social life and our world today – how and why people live and function in society as they do.

Sociology is concerned with peoples, groups, cultures, societies and their patterns, variations and problems. It aims to understand and explain human actions. It employs a wide range of interesting research methods such as interviews, questionnaires and observations to investigate and answer crucial questions about society and social life. It tries to link past, present and future. It is about the experiences we have, living our lives with other people in contemporary society.

Deadline for Task: First lesson in the week commencing 14th September 2026

In Year 1 you will study:

- Families and Households
- Education
- Research Methods

In Year 2 you will study:

- Crime and Deviance
- Beliefs in Society
- Theory and Methods

Required Stationery and Equipment for

Plenty of A4 paper
Pens
Four lever arch folders,
File dividers
Highlighters.

Essential Resources

AQA A Level Sociology Book One
3rd Revised Edition Rob Webb, Hal Westergaard, Keith Trobe (ISBN 9780954007911)

There is no expectation to purchase the textbook; we have class copies for lessons and the school library have copies available to loan.

Things to Consider Throughout the Year

Organisation is the key to success at A-Level so make sure that your folder is always organised and complete using the specification checklist provided at the start of each unit.

Log your assessments on your tracking sheet and make sure that you understand how to improve your exam answers after every piece of feedback that you receive. If you are unsure, please ask your teacher.

Recommended reading & activities list:

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[Introduction to Sociology - Concepts and Theories.pdf](#)