

# Sociology A Level

## Bridging Pack

Exam board: AQA

Qualification web link:

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

Topic Web Links:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192/subject-content-a-level>

### What is Sociology and what can it lead to?

Sociology is the scientific study of behaviour in society; how this society became established, progressed and changed, and what it may grow to become in the future. It is a social science that allows you to broaden your use of critical analysis, explore empirical investigation and create a deeper understanding of the world around you; a useful and insightful experience for any career path.

*The Complete University Guide* advises that Sociology degrees teach “transferable skills, such as presentation, research and communication, as well as how to produce complex written work swiftly and accurately, on difficult intellectual topics.” Possible career paths include; Sociologist, Community worker, Teacher and Lecturer, Aid worker, Social worker, Youth worker, Charity fundraiser, HR manager and PR and many more.

### Entry Criteria and compatible subjects:

A grade 5 in English at GCSE is advised for this course however this is not essential. Sociology as an A Level subject is not restricted in terms of needing to be aligned with other specific subjects. However, some subjects may share similar skills and, when in conjunction with them, can further improve these skills and offer an inter-disciplinary learning experience that can benefit both areas of study, for example; Psychology, History, Philosophy and Ethics.

### Course Overview

**A-Level Sociology, 2 Year course with no AS component**

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**Assessment Criteria:** AO1- Knowledge and Understanding, AO2: Application, AO3 – Analysis and Evaluation.

### Paper 1: 2 hours, 80 marks (33.3%)

#### Education with Theory and Methods

- Functions Economy Marketization
- Class, Ethnicity Gender
- Relationships & school processes
- Methods in context

### Paper 2: 2 hours, 80 marks (33.3%)

#### Topics – Families and Households

- Sociological theories on the Family
- Social Policy and Couples

Assessment objectives (AOs)	Component weightings (approx %)		Overall weighting (approx %)
	Paper 1	Paper 2	
AO1	22	24	46
AO2	18	13	31
AO3	10	13	23
Overall weighting of components	50	50	100

- Changing patterns and family diversity
- Demography and childhood

### Topics – Beliefs in Society

- Ideology, Science and Organisations
- Social change & social stability
- Social groups Religiosity in contemporary society

### **Paper 3: 2 hours, 80 marks (33.3%)**

### Component 4: Crime and Deviance

- Social order & social control
- Ethnicity Gender Class
- Globalisation Media State crime
- Control & criminal justice system
- Social theories & policy

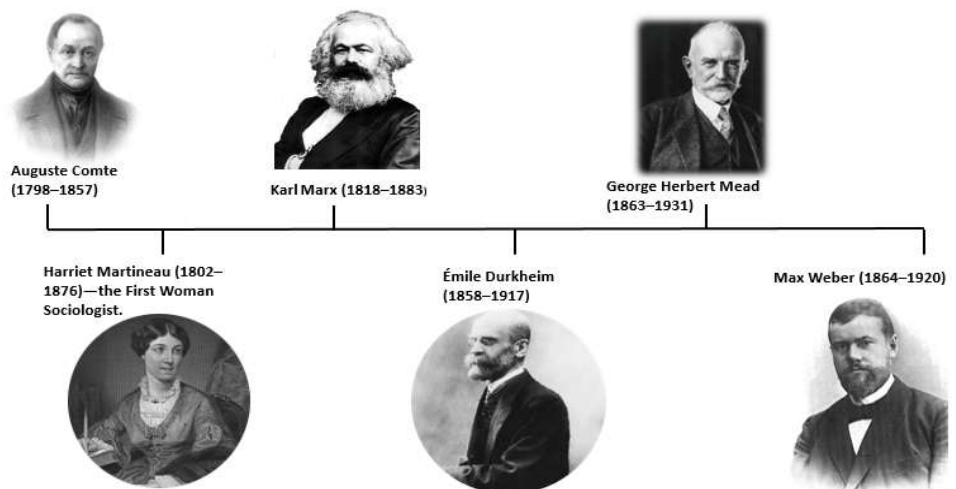
### **Activities and Research Tasks to prepare for Year 12 Sociology:**

Sociology is an essay based subject and therefore requires you to read widely around the subject and formulate your opinions on big topics. It is a subject that requires you to understand the UK and World so watching the news, reading articles, watching relevant documentaries and discussing these events and debates is essential. To support you with this type of learning and research, please follow the tasks below to give you some background, understanding and insight into some of the topics you will cover.

### **Theories and Methods:**

1. Watch this clip and summarise what a “theoretical paradigm” is –  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbTt\\_vSTjaY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbTt_vSTjaY)
2. Use the links below to research these famous Sociologists and create your own “Fathers of Sociology” Timeline with key terms, ideas and quote that summarise some of their big ideas and how they conducted their research.

## 'Fathers' of Sociology



Comte – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OhVamhT4Q3s>

Martineau – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wg9FWxpZeJ8>

Marx - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSQgCy\\_ilcc&list=RDCMUC71cJ18PUf5Z3zKxnZvTBog&start\\_radio=1&t=3](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSQgCy_ilcc&list=RDCMUC71cJ18PUf5Z3zKxnZvTBog&start_radio=1&t=3)

Durkheim - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z9W0GQvONKc>

Mead – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7A2GIct0UnQ>

Weber - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69VF7mT4nRU>

## **Families and Households:**

1. Find the definitions for the following key family terms: Monogamy, Bigamy, Polygamy, Maternal, Nuclear family, Empty nest, Empty shell marriage, Extended family, Kinship, Cohabitation.
2. Research the changing family in the UK and answer the following questions:
  - How has the family structure changed over the past 100 years?
  - How have the following policies affected the family?
    - The Divorce Act 1969 and 1984
    - The Paternity Act 2010
    - The Civil partnerships Act 2004 and the Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Act 2013

The links below will support this research;

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zj8qn39/revision/2,](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zj8qn39/revision/2)

<https://revisesociology.com/2015/12/17/social-policy-family/>

Watch one of the following films and summarise to what extent, in your opinion, it shows change in families and households over the last 150 years; Suffragette (2014, PG13), East is East (1999, Please be aware this has an age rating of 15 students should consult their parents before watching), Pride (2014, Please be aware this has an age rating of 15 students should consult their parents before watching.)

## **Education:**

1. Research the History of Education in the UK and answer the following questions:
  - a) When did education become compulsory in the UK?
  - b) Prior to compulsory education, what were the differences in who used to receive schooling?
  - c) What are the oldest and newest subjects?
  - d) How have the methods of dealing with behaviour changed over time?
  - e) What are some of the major changes that have taken place in UK education in the 20th and 21st centuries?  
Watch some episodes of the Great British School Swap (Please be aware that this may include swearing and offensive language).
2. on Youtube and write down some ideas (mindmap/bulletpoints/ 1 page formal writing) on the big differences between the various schools and those who attend them. How might have they been influenced by factors both inside and outside of school? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=giV7rRqdqD8>
3. Select 4-5 of the QR codes on the following page to complete some wider reading in Contemporary Issues in Education today. For each QR code reading write a brief paragraph summarising the issue and add your own take on what impact/consequences/solutions there may be for it.




















## **Beliefs in Society:**

1. Research Beliefs in Society:
  - What is religion?
  - What is Secularisation?
  - How has religion encouraged social change in the past?
  - What might be replacing traditional religion in today's world?
2. Read the article and note down its strengths and weaknesses in your opinion - <http://www.bbc.com/culture/story/20180713-is-football-the-universal-religion>

The links below will support your research.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ge071m9bGeY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plgb-3e8CWA>

Silt shifting	Streaming	Wealth and schools	Private schools
			
Education system racist	Poverty and pupils	Roma and Gypsy pupils	Chinese pupils
			
Global Education and terrorism	Ethnic minority children	Diversity in HE	Problem with public schools
			
Vocational education and snobbery	Books and achievement	Violence and school pupils	Poor pupils, home and school
			
Child poverty	Ethnocentric curriculum	School closures and Disadvantaged students	Xenophobic Bullying in UK schools
			

<https://revisesociology.com/beliefs-in-society-religion/>

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/collections/beliefs-in-society>

3. You could watch Louis Theroux's My Scientology Movie about one of the most controversial belief systems of the Modern day. What methods and techniques is Louis using to research his subject? What about Scientology do you think makes it a belief/religion? <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wGotnoKBOp5MLBpggNe5RpTyNqDgCVQP/view> This is optional and please be aware that this documentary is 16+ and students should consult their parents before watching.

### Crime and Deviance:

- Using the internet, research the answers to the following questions:
  - What is a crime?
  - What is deviance?
  - What are laws?

- What is a white collar crime?
- Moral crimes include offences such as prostitution, underage drinking and illegal drug use. Why do some people argue that such crimes are 'victimless'?
- What is cybercrime? Name some examples of cybercrimes.
- What is a hate crime?
- What do you think is more effective in reducing crime: crime prevention or harsher punishments?

<https://www.coursehero.com/sg/introduction-to-sociology/defining-crime-in-sociology/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2llcZPW6oU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zBodqwAlW3A>

2. Watch one of the following and summarise how it links to Crime and Deviance. Here are some questions to consider; What type of crime or deviance is being portrayed? How reliable do you see the justice process? Are some people treated differently to others? Why? What has it made you think about or question?
  - 13th - Documentary by Ava du Vernay, available on Netflix. (Please be aware this has an age rating of 15 students should consult their parents before watching.) – The Justice System and institutionalised racism.
  - Deep Water Horizon (2013, PG) – State and Green crime
  - The Big Short (2016, Please be aware this has an age rating of 15 students should consult their parents before watching.) – White collar crime
  - Ocean's 8 (2016, 13) – Women and Crime

## **Questions to complete:**

1. Which sociological perspective/ paradigm do you agree with most and why? Ensure to include evidence and refer to your wider reading/watching, using key terms when you can. (Functionalism, Marxism, Feminism, Interactionism) ( Half page answer)
2. How far do you agree that the Education System in the UK is fair and supports a meritocracy? Ensure to include evidence and refer to your wider reading/watching, using key terms when you can. (1-2 page answer)
3. To what extent has the family changed over the last 100 years? Ensure to include evidence and refer to your wider reading/watching, using key terms when you can. (1-2 page answer)
4. Outline and explain 2 issues with the way society today deals with crime and deviance. Ensure to include evidence and refer to your wider reading/watching, using key terms when you can. (2 paragraphs)

## **Suggested Reading/Watch List:**

### **Books**

- *Chavs*, Owen Jones
- *Noughts and Crosses*, Malorie Blackman
- *Animal Farm*, George Orwell
- *1984*, George Orwell
- *Everyday Sexism*, Laura Bates
- *The Feminine Mystique*, Betty Friedan
- *A Small Island*, Anrea Levy

### **TV shows/Films/Documentaries**

- *Educating Yorkshire/Essex/Cardiff*  
(Please be aware that this may include swearing and offensive language.)
- *Rich House Poor house*
- *Freedom Writers*
- *Billy Eliot* (15)
- *Noughts and Crosses* – BBC iplayer
- *Back in Time for School* – BBC
- *I, Daniel Blake* (15)