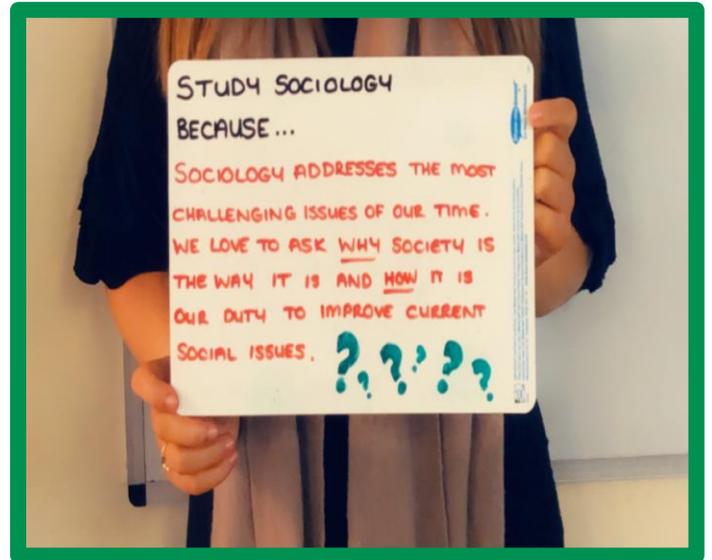


Sociology



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Hello and Welcome to Sociology at Frances Bardsley!

Within this booklet you will find lots of activities and tasks to prepare you for starting your Sociology A Level September 2020. We at FBA do not expect you to have studied Sociology as a GCSE and therefore these tasks aim to build your cultural capital and will be highly beneficial to best prepare you for the study of Sociology with us. Some are compulsory for you to complete before your first day in Year 12 whilst others are optional.

I hope you find this booklet informative and engaging and I personally look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to our Soc Family this September.

Until then, Stay Inside and Stay Safe.

Miss Thurston – Head of Sociology

What Will I Study in Sociology?

AQA Sociology A Level | The Examination at a Glance

You will study a linear A Level in Sociology which covers 6 units of work over two academic years of study. You will sit three examination papers at the end of the two-year course. Sociology A Level is 100% examination and requires you to write under pressure... don't worry though- we make sure we have lots of practice on examination technique throughout the two years and no one gets left behind!

AQA Sociology A Level | The Examination Papers

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods
What's assessed? Compulsory content: Education, Methods in Context, Theory and Methods
How is it assessed? 2 hour written exam 80 marks 33.3% of A Level
What year will I learn this? Year 12

Paper 2: Topics in Sociology
What's assessed? Section A: Families and Households Section B: Beliefs in Society
How is it assessed? 2 hour written exam 80 marks 33.3% of A Level
What year will I learn this? Section A: Year 12 Section B: Year 12-13

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods
What's assessed? Compulsory content: Crime and Deviance, Theory and Methods
How is it assessed? 2 hour written exam 80 marks 33.3% of A Level
What year will I learn this? Year 13

The Specification

AQA Sociology A Level | What key ideas do we study?

From September 2020 you will step foot into my classroom and begin journey as a young sociologist. Although we are a family in Sociology and part of our buzzing sixth form community, you are also an individual who learns uniquely. With this in mind whilst we learn together it is very important to me that we have diversity in how we learn and collate our ideas, be prepared to learn in a dynamic atmosphere where you work together, independently, host debates, get creative, question the world we live in, apply everyday news you see and hear to our lessons and more importantly enjoy learning.

If the following questions make you think YASSSS then Sociology is the A Level for you.

-  Does society shape who we are as an individual?
-  Why do girls do better than boys in education?
-  Will religion disappear in the next 100 years?
-  Is punishment effective today?
-  Has the coronavirus revealed class differences in society?
-  Is there such thing as justice?
-  Why do men commit more crime than women?
-  How dangerous is extremism?
-  Does feminism undermine freedom?
-  Has technology developed too quickly?
-  Does society watch us to protect us or control us?
-  Are governments responsible for state crimes?
-  What crimes have developed from globalization?
-  Does the law apply to all?

We study in depth key concepts such as Education, Families and Households, Crime and Deviance, Beliefs and Theories as to why society is the way it is and how it may develop in the future. It is important that you find these areas interesting and have a curiosity about them as we apply daily news and experiences we face to our learning to truly understand the significance of society in our lives. I can teach you how to secure top marks with examination technique but it's important you bring the passion of these topics to class each lesson.

AQA Sociology A Level | Specification and Further Information

If you wish to view the specification we study please visit the following link <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192/specification-at-a-glance> to find details on each individual unit and examples of past papers.

Tasks to Inspire and Aspire to Achieve

Things To Do | Tasks to organise and make you feel confident for September

Over the next few pages you will find a list of tasks to inspire you as future sociologists but also tasks that you should aspire to complete. If a task is listed as | C | next to the task title this means **compulsory** and you must bring along evidence of your efforts to the first lesson we have together. Other tasks are not compulsory but I hope you find useful to prepare you for becoming a successful A Level student. You will also have **one research project that you must complete** for September. Please be aware these tasks are not to be completed all in one day as that would be exhausting! However, we need to **Stay Inside to Stay Safe** these days and these tasks can give your days some structure.

1. Sociologist's Vocabulary | C

Research the following key words that sociologists are frequent in and write down the correct definition for each key word.

Values and Norms	Capitalism	Communism
Census	Dictatorship	Government
Discrimination	Poverty	Diversity
Feral Children	Genocide	Working class
Socialisation	Right-wing	Left-wing
Conflict	Stereotype	Subculture

2. When you read me what comes to mind? | C

For the following concepts list them on an A4 piece of paper and write or draw what comes to mind - how would you define these concepts without looking up the definition. You can use no more than 15 words but unlimited drawings or symbols. Be creative and bold, don't be afraid to get these wrong!

- i. Education
- ii. State crime
- iii. Belief
- iv. Sexism
- v. Family
- vi. Victim
- vii. Globalisation
- viii. Protection
- ix. Identity
- x. Double Shift

Tasks

3. Who Am I? | C

Create a piece using resources of your choice describing who you are at this point in your life. Include ideas you have on why you are this person, what experiences have you lived through, who is your inspiration, what do you want to do in the future and why are you interested in sociology. Try to use sociology key words to describe yourself too!

4. Find Sociology in the media

Sociology is everywhere, so you'll be able to see aspects of it in all forms of media. Try searching for the following titles and make notes on any videos you watch, try to keep it relevant to the topics taught in Sociology (see examination at a glance)

-  School Swap documentary/ Educating Essex series
-  Stacey Dooley documentaries
-  Reggie Yates documentaries
-  Dispatches documentaries (4OD)
-  Panorama documentaries (BBC iPlayer)

5. Extended Writing

Research a published piece of writing such as an article on one or more of the following; marriage and divorce in Britain, case studies of feral children and how to reintegrate them into society, injustices against ethnic minorities in the UK, gap between advantage and disadvantage children in schooling and the solutions proposed to close the gap.

Once you have chosen your article produce a sociological review using sociological key words. You may wish to write a summary on the article and how it links into ideas about society. You may need to do research on sociological key words to support you.

6. How do you see society?

Draw (or build a model) of how you view society (use shapes / key words / images where possible) and provide a written explanation of your work (At least a side of A4) to explain your work. In your opinion, identify what are main issues/ problems/ solutions you feel as a society we face and why? Are these the same problems we faced 5 years ago and will our solutions to these still solve the problem in 10 years' time?

Research Project: Thinking like a Sociologist

Researching the Impact of Coronavirus | C

Your final year in secondary education was disrupted promptly by the rise of the Covid-19 pandemic. I hope that you and your family remain healthy in this challenging time. Despite the real threat of the virus to societies most vulnerable, rainbows can be found. Globally and nationally we have shown social solidarity in coming together to support our family and friends, our neighbours and our key workers. We are living through history and should you chose to have children in the future, you will help them with homework on this pandemic.

For your ongoing research project, you will need to complete the following activities. You may not be able to answer all of them but please attempt them to the best of your ability. Engaging these activities will build up your research and this will begin to develop your skills as a sociologist.

1. Build up an interactive grid (I would suggest doing this on a Word document or Excel spreadsheet so you can copy and paste research links into this and update as you find more) looking at how Covid-19 impacted these key areas of society list. For each area think about finding answers to the following questions being careful to avoid fake news, make sure you reference where you gained this information from, it is optional which questions you use. You may also wish to research in more depth and ask your own questions too. You may also find that different sources have different opinions or commentary and that is ok too, don't be afraid to add your own views- do this in another colour font.

a. Covid-19 the impact on Education

- ✚ What was the role of education during the pandemic?
- ✚ Did education play an important role in supporting young people in the pandemic? How?
- ✚ To what extent did school closure slow the curve of the pandemic?
- ✚ Did all teachers provide learning resources during this time?
- ✚ Was it reasonable to ask students to continue learning at home?
- ✚ Was cancelling examinations for year 11 and 13 the right course of action?
- ✚ What was the global effort to support education?
- ✚ How did learning remotely reveal class differences in society? What was the solutions in place?
- ✚ To what extent should private schools ask for the Summer term fee during the pandemic?
- ✚ How were teachers, teaching assistances and the education sector viewed during the pandemic? Did this range from country to country?
- ✚ Research articles on education and home learning to help assess the full impact on education.

b. Covid-19 the impact on Crime and Deviance

- ✚ What was the role of police during the pandemic?
- ✚ How were police treated during the pandemic?
- ✚ Why did globalised crime decrease during this time?

- ✚ Certain crimes increased during the Covid-19 outbreak- what were they?

Research Project: Thinking like a Sociologist

- ✚ Why did the following crimes; non-residential burglaries, theft from cars, domestic violence and GBH rise during this time?
- ✚ How were victims of reported domestic violence supported during the pandemic?
- ✚ Possession of drugs / drug dealing declined or increased during the pandemic? Why do you think this was?
- ✚ How were the homeless supported during the pandemic?
- ✚ Research articles on the expectations of police and support police received

c. Covid-19 the impact on Families and Households

- ✚ How did Covid-19 impact the demographics of the ageing population in the UK?
- ✚ Who were the key workers?
- ✚ Why were some people asked to shield and self-isolate for 12 weeks indoors?
- ✚ How were businesses affected during the pandemic? What is furloughing? What government schemes were in place to support families and households? Were these schemes successful?
- ✚ How were the self-employed impacted by Covid-19?
- ✚ What new rules came into place for those women giving birth during the pandemic?
- ✚ What was the overall impact on families during this time?
- ✚ What stresses did families experience during the pandemic?
- ✚ How did households change for some doctors and nurses?
- ✚ Why are there predictions of a baby boom in December 2020-March 2021 and a prediction of divorce rates rising during this same time period?
- ✚ How did families support each other during this time?
- ✚ Research articles which support how families and households were supported during this time.

d. Covid-19 the impact on Belief

- ✚ How did places of worship communicate with their followers?
- ✚ Were religious festivals or celebrations still experienced during the pandemic?
- ✚ Did any holy sites shut during this time? Why? For how long?
- ✚ Was it right to close places of worship?
- ✚ Did religious beliefs increase during the pandemic? What reasons could support this?
- ✚ How was faith mentioned or reported during the pandemic?
- ✚ Research articles or images of faith being shown in the community during this time.

e. Covid-19 the impact on Health

- ✚ Who was considered the most vulnerable during the pandemic?
- ✚ Why was social distancing legalized?
- ✚ What were the symptoms of Covid-19?

Research Project: Thinking like a Sociologist

-  Why was self-isolation important?
 -  Describe the curve and what this meant for medical scientists.
 -  How long did it take for Nightingale NHS to be built?
 -  What are the most recent death toll figures nationally and globally?
 -  What are the most recent recovery figures nationally and globally?
 -  To what extent was the NHS prepared? Was enough done to support the NHS? What help was offered?
 -  How did Lady Gaga raise awareness and global funds for health care professionals?
 -  How and why is mental health a concern during the Covid-19 breakout?
 -  What did we learn about our health care professionals during the pandemic?
 -  Research any articles that you have found inspiring on the healthcare professions during Covid-19
2. Watch one daily briefing (BBC News around 5-6pm) create notes on the topics of discussion and title these notes with the date you watched the briefing and name the key speakers (there are usually 3). What is your opinion on the daily update?
 3. Research how the economy in the UK was affected by the pandemic. How many people signed up to receive help from government schemes? Predict what the lasting impact of this will be on your generation and in years to come. When will the economy bounce back? (You can compare this with the Spanish Flu Pandemic in 1918) Did the UK react quick enough to the pandemic try to find different viewpoints. What were our main problems that we faced as a country? How did the government try to resolve these problems?
 4. Who were the keyworkers? Would you have added any other jobs into the list of keyworkers during this time? If so, why have you chosen to add them? Should key workers continue to be recognized in society and why? Do you think the pandemic highlighted some jobs that previously were overlooked?
 5. Globally how have different countries responded to the pandemic. Choose 3 countries outside of the UK and research how their government tackled the coronavirus outbreak. What policies came into place? Was it a quick or slow reaction? What were their countries death toll?

Super Challenge: Research how different sociologists such as Marxism and Functionalism would view actions taken by the government during the pandemic.

Building Cultural Capital

What is Cultural Capital? | Why universities love to see evidence of cultural capital.

You may already have university in mind as a place you want to attend at the end of your A Levels. You may be a student that already knows their career route or you may be a student that loves learning and is open to where they go post A Levels, whether that is university or an apprenticeship or a job. Either way universities and employers look alongside your grades at the skills you have obtained in cultural capital during your two years of study.

So, what is cultural capital? Cultural capital was first introduced by Sociologist Bourdieu in the 1970s! Cultural capital is any super-curricular activity that takes the subject you study further and beyond what your teacher has taught you or given you for homework. Cultural capital is independent and can lead further qualifications. It can be anything from reading, taking part in online courses or lectures, visiting museums, building on academia or watching documentaries and even movies. UCAS applications are a fantastic way to show off your cultural capital and more and more universities, especially the Russell Club, are wanting specific evidence of this and your application of these skills to your studies.

You are now in a perfect position to build your cultural capital and here in the Sociology department, we've got you covered.

Cultural Capital Opportunities | Free Online Courses

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue> Society, Law and Politics at the Open University covers a range of additional courses pitched at different levels, a statement of qualification is awarded on completion.

<https://online-learning.harvard.edu/course/improving-global-health-focusing-quality-and-safety?delta=0> Improving Global Health at Harvard University, a certificate is awarded on completion.

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/society-politics-law/questioning-crime-social-harms-and-global-issues/content-section-o?active-tab=description-tab> Crime, Social Harms and Global Crime at the Open University, a statement of qualification is awarded on completion.

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/society-politics-law/introduction-crime-and-criminology/content-section-o?active-tab=description-tab> Criminology at the Open University, a statement of qualification is awarded on completion.

Cultural Capital Opportunities | Sociological Theories Explained

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/reference/sociological-theory-functionalism> Functionalism

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/reference/sociological-theory-marxism> Marxism

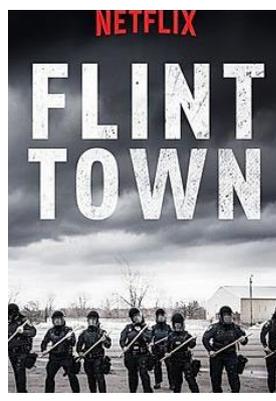
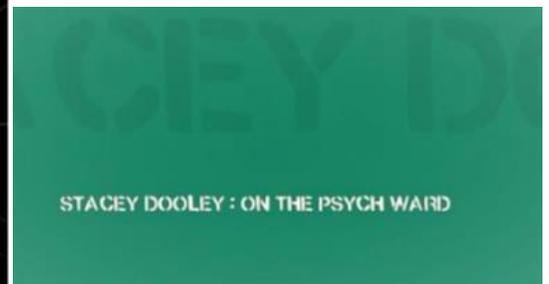
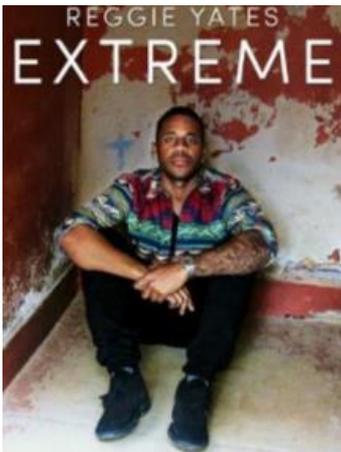
<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/reference/sociological-theory-feminism> Feminism

Building Cultural Capital

Cultural Capital Opportunities | Wider Reading

- ✚ Living Dolls: The Return of Sexism – Natasha Walker
- ✚ Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother – Amy Chua
- ✚ No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference – Greta Thunberg
- ✚ We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed With Our Families – Philip Gourevitch
- ✚ The God Delusion – Richard Dawkins
- ✚ The Faith Instinct: How Religion Evolved and Why It Endures – Nicholas Wade

Cultural Capital Opportunities | Documentaries and Movies



Studying Sociology allows you to look at a vast range of documentaries and movies which directly or indirectly comments on areas of society for example, identity, crime, education, futuristic, traditional, health, families. There is a huge range that you can find on Netflix and even Disney which link to Sociology! Have a go at watching at least one!

Building Cultural Capital

Cultural Capital Opportunities | Podcasts

<https://www.thesociologicalreview.com/category/structure/podcasts/> **The Sociology Review** – you can also sign up for the Sociology Magazine here <https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/sociologyreview> we also have their monthly magazine in our school library

<http://sociocast.org/annex/> **Annex Sociology Project**

<https://measureradio.libsyn.com> **Measure of Every Day Life**

<http://sociocast.org> **Sociology Podcast Project**

Cultural Capital Opportunities | Getting Ahead Start

In the Sociology Department having not having Sociology GCSE doesn't put you at a disadvantage. There are some areas of the GCSE Course that are useful to know before starting in September and you can research this via the GCSE AQA Spec found here <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/sociology/specifications/AQA-8192-SP-2017.PDF>

However understanding some of these key ideas will give you that added confidence in September but remember... we will look at these together and no one is left behind!

-  Understanding what a social structure is.
-  Having an idea of the theory Functionalism
-  Having an idea of the theory Marxism
-  Knowing what feminism is and different types of feminists
-  Having an idea of research methods and why we might use them to find things out about society such as questionnaires, interviews and observations.

Sociology FAQ for September

Transition from GCSE -> A Level

We recognise moving from GCSE to A Level can be daunting, especially because of the disruption with Covid-19 and your summer examinations being cancelled. You may have questions about the course and want truthful answers. Below are some of the most frequently asked questions I find as Head of Sociology and you may find the answers useful.

1. What is the difference between Sociology and Psychology?

Sociology is the study of society and how society is shaped and why. We look at the roles of big institutions in society. This also includes looking at human behavior and how as humans we may respond to situations, do we have freewill and research methods to help determine if we can predict how society may develop or how humans may behave. Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and its functions and how this impacts human behavior.

2. Is Sociology an easy subject?

Sociology is content heavy. We are lucky to study some really exciting areas of society and hold debates and dynamic classroom discussions but this also means you will have a fair amount to revise and organize in notes. It should not be mistaken for an easy subject. You will need to be willing to develop your writing skills as the grade awarded at the end of the two years comes from 100% examination marks. I am a big believer that if you enjoy what you learn and are passionate about the subject revision will come easier to you, therefore only choose Sociology if you are interested in the course and its many vast areas.

3. What jobs can come from studying Sociology?

Sociology develops many skills that are desirable for any employer, we also build cultural capital allowing this to apply to all jobs or apprenticeships. However, studying Sociology is exciting because it leads onto university and careers in the following; criminology (Forensic Detective, Criminologist), law (Solicitor, Lawyer), public sector (HR, Government and Politics, Police, Teaching ect) the end of careers that stem from a qualification in Sociology is large but you will also need passion and dedication to studying to get you there.

4. Is there a lot of writing and reading?

Any reading I set you will be explained in class and is set to develop your reading skills, organization and independence but all A Levels require you to feel comfortable with reading. As we cover vast areas from crime and deviance to families and households to name a few, writing is a skill you will develop in the course and I will teach you how to gain marks in the exams therefore if you really dislike writing, this may not be the course for you. However, we avoid writing from textbooks and we find ways to remember key ideas that are not dependent on reading and writing!

5. I don't know anyone at FBA will I be able to be introduced to people in Sociology?

Absolutely! We have a strong sixth form community and our Sociology are a big family. Our current Sociology cohort Year 12's who will be Year 13 when you arrive are near 50% of external when they started in September- now they're FBA and we've forgotten they haven't had years and years with us! You will be introduced and helped to find friends instantly.