

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

Theories of Sociology
Methods of Sociology
Culture and Identity
Education

Year 13

Crime and Deviance
Topics in sociology
Methods of Sociology
Theories of Sociology

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>

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.

Expectations of the course:

- Lessons consist of taking notes, group discussions, watching relevant DVDs/documentaries, group work and PowerPoint presentations.
- Homework consists of note making, wider reading, research, past exam questions, quizzes, documentaries and essays.

What work has been set?

Below are a series of 5 tasks that will introduce you to Sociology as a subject. At the end send the work to kss@hardenhuish.wilts.sch.uk

Task 1

Choose something from the Reading and Watching List that you are going to report on in your first Sociology lesson. Let kss@hardenhuish.wilt.sch.uk know which one you have selected when you send in your work.

Reading List - Sociology

- Brave New World – Aldous Huxley
- Animal Farm – George Orwell
- 1984 – George Orwell
- Chavs: The Demonisation of the Working Class – Owen Jones
- The Establishment and How They Get Away With It – Owen Jones
- The Handmaid's Tale – Margaret Atwood (also a series)
- Vox – Christina Dalcher
- The God Delusion – Richard Dawkins
- Outsiders: Studies in Sociology of Deviance – Howard S Becker
- Folk Devils and Moral Panics – Stanley Cohen
- A Glasgow Gang Observed – Patrick James
- Gang Leader For A Day – Sudhir Venkatesh
- A wide range of newspapers including The Guardian and Independent

Watching List - Sociology

- Any documentaries, including Panorama, Louis Theroux, Stacey Dooley, Mind of a Murderer etc
- Black Mirror series (Netflix)
- Years and Years (BBC i-player)
- Goodfellas
- The Godfather (part 2 is the best)
- Legend
- My Scientology Movie
- The 'Up' series (eg. 56 Up, 63 Up) on Netflix or Youtube
- The Secret Life of 5 year olds
- McMafia (previously BBC i-player)

- Freedom Writer’s Diary
- Dangerous Minds
- Chernobyl (drama)
- When They See Us (Netflix)
- The Society (Netflix)
- Blood Diamond
- A Bug’s Life or Antz (for Marxism)
- Ted Talks/Sociology

Task 2

Each group of statements represents a sociological theory. Say which ONE statement out of each group you agree with and give reasons why you have chosen it.

List 1 Statements:

- a) Men dominate.
- b) Gender inequalities exist.
- c) Women are systematically disadvantaged.
- d) All men hate women some of the time. Some men hate women all of the time.

I agree with

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List 2 Statements:

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

I agree with

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List 3 Statements:

- a) Life is unfair.
- b) People are not paid enough.
- c) The world is run for a very small group of people.
- d) Most people cannot see that they spend their entire lives being exploited.
- e) Our current system for organising the economy does not work.

I agree with

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Task 3

Watch the following clip and jot down 5 things that tell you what Sociology is.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnCJU6PaCio>



1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

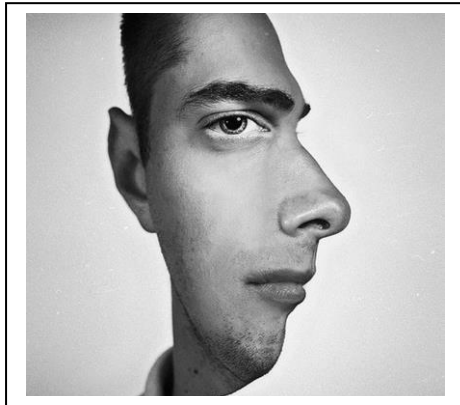
5. _____

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 normal, taken-for-granted life and turn it upside down, looking for meanings. And very often we end up seeing things very differently.

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 4

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

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

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

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Task 5

Why do you think has society changed? Why are societies different?

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Now send to kss@hardenhuish.wilts.sch.uk by 21st June