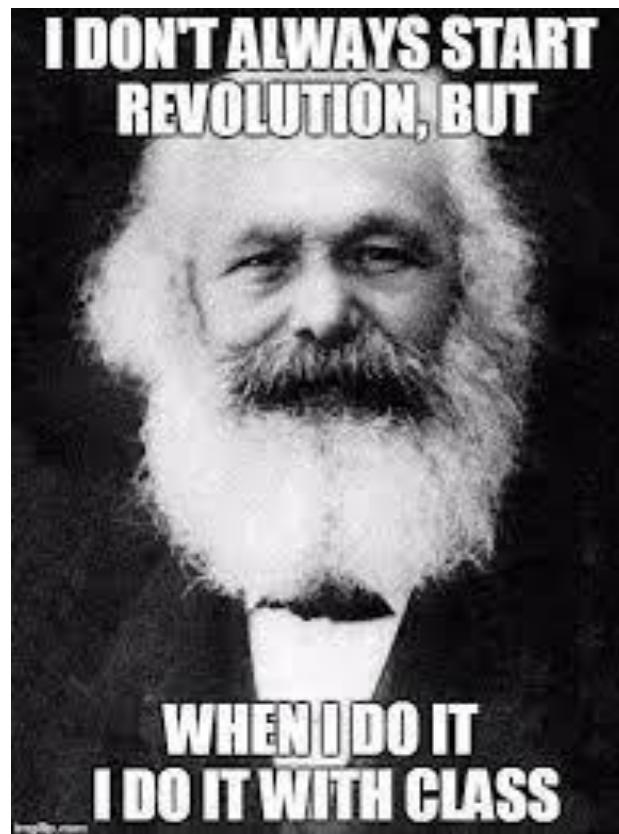


Sociology: the study of social life, social change and the social causes and consequences of human behaviour



You are required to complete **ALL** of the activities in this transition pack for submission in the first week of the new academic year. **The A Level in Sociology is a fun, embracing yet challenging qualification.** It will develop your thinking skills and vastly expand your knowledge of human behaviour. There will be 8-9 taught hours per fortnight. It is then expected that students do three hours per week of homework and independent study at home and during their approximately 10 weekly free periods.

This is a detailed and comprehensive assignment that you have been given. **Do not rush it.** We advise that you complete different parts of the transition pack at different points in the Summer holiday, rather than leaving it all until the final week of your break. **You should expect to spend longer on these tasks than any homework you have completed before.** A Level Sociology will be a significant step up from the work you have completed in Year 11... The ‘A’ stands for ‘Advanced’!

Your A Level Sociology will be divided into three papers. Each paper will be two hours long. The content is below:

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
Education	Families and Households	Crime and Deviance
Theory and Methods	Media	Theory and Methods

Task 1:

First it is important that you know what Sociology is and more importantly what it is not.

Complete the task below:

1a. In 50-100 words, summarise what you believe Sociology to be.

2a. Now watch the following video and add to your notes, summarising what you believe Sociology to be. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LK5J0-cM-HE>

At the Heart of Sociology are three questions:

What is happening in society? (*Social Research*)

Why is it happening? (*Social Theory*)

What can be done about it? (*Social Policy*)

It is important that you start to think like a sociologist – this is not just opinion but theory generated by research.

Within Sociology we will look at a number of theories and contemporary issues. It will be useful to you if you have already gained some knowledge on some of these theories/issues.

Task 2:

Consensus vs. Conflict Theory

Watch and then answer the question below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GA-1wFB4TuY>

Question: What is the difference between consensus and conflict theory's approaches to studying society? Make some notes on your answer to this question.



Task 3:

Action Vs Structure

Individuals are like moulded putty, squished and squashed by society and its structures, but there are decisions we make that are driven by internal motivations. Behaviour that comes from within us – decisions we make in order to do things - is called agency. **Agency** behaviour is meaningful and a reflection of self-will. Sometimes we can challenge and oppose structures, and in this way we help construct a part of our identity. The following link summarises these two approaches:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afwPkLuoU9g>

BIG question – Does society create us as individuals, or do we create society? Write up your response, analysing points that go for and against the idea that we are created by society. Offer evidence where you can and come to a clear conclusion.

Task 4:

Select something from the suggested watch or reading list (you may like to choose something of your choice here). Create a summary of what you have chosen - You will need to draw out 5 key lessons from the book/film/article and then show how it links to Sociology as a whole, and which particular topic/areas.

Suggested Reading List

- 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 (or watch this)
- 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
- Sociology Review Magazine
- Newspapers including The Guardian and Independent



Suggested Watch list:

- Documentaries, including Panorama, Louis Theroux, Stacey Dooley, Mind of a Murderer etc
- I, Daniel Blake (Amazon Prime)
- Years and Years (BBC i-player)
- The 'Up' series (eg. 56 Up, 63 Up - on Netflix or Youtube)
- The Secret Life of 5 year olds (Channel 4 series)
- McMafia (Netflix)
- Freedom Writer's Diary (Amazon Prime)
- When They See Us (Netflix)
- The Society (Netflix)
- Love, Simon (Amazon Prime)
- Pixar's 'A Bug's Life or Antz' (for Marxism)
- Ted Talks/Sociology (online)
- Made in Dagenham (BBC i-player)
- Wonder (Netflix)
- The Wife (Netflix)
- School swap
- Wife swap
- Child of our time (Prof Winston series)



Task 5 – Sociology Today

There are many sources that you can use but below are some of the key websites and twitter accounts that will prove helpful to you throughout your A Level. Take some time and find your way around these sites, create a twitter account and follow specified sources in time for your September start.

- www.tutor2Usociology
- www.thesociologyguy
- <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheTEACHERSOCIOLOGY>
- www.revisesociology.com
- www.senecalearning.com
- www.bbc.co.uk/news (you should be constantly keeping up with the news. You need to be applying and relating what we learn in class to what is going on in society)
- www.simplepolitics.co.uk will help make sense of the politics!

Twitter suggestions:

@TheSocReview – The Sociology Review A Level magazine

@DailySociology – sociology news every day

@SocImages – links to interesting articles and research

@TheSocCinema – pop culture and film links with sociology

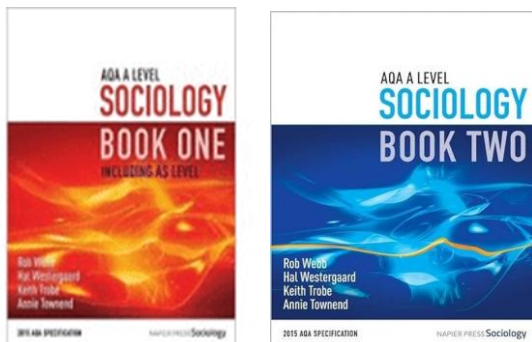
@SassySociology – a PhD student specialising in gender, ethnicity and inequalities

@LearnSoc - this is the official twitter page of one of the largest sociology website

@SociologyLens -provides links to current sociological topics, research and issues to debate

Good luck and we will see you in September 😊

The books we will be using in class:



Please buy the books in September.

**If you have any further questions while you are enjoying your Summer holiday,
my email address can be found below 😊**

Mrs Clifton-Attfield – aclifton-attfield@sawtryva.org