

A LEVEL TRANSITION WORK

A Level Sociology

Specification

AQA GCE Sociology

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

Course Overview

Year 1 Subject Content	Year 2 Subject Content
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Family and households • Research methods • Methods in context 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime and deviance • Media • Theory

There is no coursework component to the course. You will sit three examinations at the end of the two year course and each one will be equally weighted in contributing to your final grade.

Assessments

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods	+	Paper 2: Topics in Sociology	+	Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods
What's assessed Compulsory content 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3		What's assessed Section A: one from option 1: 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.3 or 4.2.4 Section B: one from option 2: 4.2.5, 4.2.6, 4.2.7 or 4.2.8		What's assessed Compulsory content 4.3.1, 4.3.2
Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hour written exam • 80 marks • 33.3% of A-level 		Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hour written exam • 80 marks • 33.3% of A-level 		Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hour written exam • 80 marks • 33.3% of A-level
Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education: short answer and extended writing, 50 marks • Methods in Context: extended writing, 20 marks • Theory and Methods: extended writing, 10 marks 		Questions Section A: extended writing, 40 marks Section B: extended writing, 40 marks		Questions Crime and Deviance: short answer and extended writing, 50 marks Theory and Methods: extended writing, 30 marks

Recommended Reading / Revision

All students will have access to the Sociology review magazine online archives for wider reading outside of lessons.

In addition to this they will have access to all lesson powerpoints and Tutor2u revision companions which they should review regularly after lessons have taken place to allow for effective consolidation and revision prior to assessments.

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Throughout the course you may find the following websites helpful for revision materials and exam practice:

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

<http://www.earlhamsociologypages.co.uk>

<https://www.sociologystuff.com>

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology>

<https://quizlet.com/en-gb>

Suggested extended reading:

Sociologists focus most of their time and energy exploring the ways in which society is unequal, with a specific emphasis on ethnic, gender and class differences. So any reading material which focuses on these inequalities is particularly helpful.

Digital platforms:

Sociology students should attempt to immerse themselves in current affairs, yes Twitter can be useful for this, so try to follow some interesting social commentators if you can, journalists, BBC news outlets and politicians as well as your favourite Love Island contestants or Grime artists.

Try to keep up with the news too, the BBC is the preferred broadcaster for this as it's policy is to attempt to be politically neutral (controversial I know) and it offers multiple free platforms from TV, radio, podcasts and digital content.

Books:

Title	Author
Chavs: The demonization of the working class	Owen Jones
This is London	Ben Judah
Gang leader for a day	Sudhir Venkatesh
Respectable	Lynsey Hanley
McMafia	Misha Glenny
Homo Deus: A brief history of tomorrow	Yuval Noah Harari
Goth: Identity, style and subculture	Paul Hodkinson
Black like me	John Howard Griffin

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Transition work for Sociology A level students

Thank you for opting to study A-level Sociology at North Halifax Grammar School in September. Prior to the start of the course, it is extremely important for you to conduct some independent work at home to prepare you for your A-level studies. The work that you will complete will be background work to ensure you have some insight into Sociology.

Sociology may be a new subject for most of you, therefore conducting some research in the area is vital so that you can have a better idea about what you will be studying for the next two years.

In sociology we will explore a range of critical issues from a range of theoretical perspectives. I would like you to complete the following free online course so you can familiarise yourself with the course you are about to start:

<https://ondemand.tutor2u.net/students/introduction-to-aqa-a-level-sociology-getting-started>

Please make sure you make notes as you go through the course to help you remember key points about the following:

Course overview	
Assessment objectives	
Study skills	

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Please also make notes on the following perspectives:

Marxism

Feminism

Functionalism

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In addition to this, as part of your transition please read and revise the perspectives, terminology and key theorists below. You will be taught all theories in depth in lessons but this will help you get started and will also support your development as an independent learner. **Research any unfamiliar terms.**

There will be a multiple choice quiz to assess your understanding in the first week of the course.

1. Marxism

Historical Context:

Founded by Karl Marx in the 19th century during the rise of industrial capitalism. Marxism views society as structured by class conflict between the bourgeoisie (owners) and proletariat (workers).

Marxists believe that society is in conflict.

Main Ideas:

- Society is unfair because the rich have more power.
- The working class is controlled through education, media, and laws.

Key Theories:

- ****Base and Superstructure**** – The economy controls everything else in society (like education and family).
- ****False Consciousness**** – Workers don't realise they're being exploited.

2. Feminism

Historical context:

Rooted in women's rights movements since the late 19th century, feminism critiques the patriarchal structure of society and focuses on gender inequality. Feminists believe society is controlled by men (patriarchy). They are also conflict theorists.

Main Ideas:

- Women have less power in most parts of society.
- Gender roles are taught through family, school, and media.

Key Theories:

- ****Liberal Feminism**** – Wants equal rights and gradual change through laws and education.
- ****Radical Feminism**** – Believes men benefit from controlling women in every part of life.

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3. Functionalism

Historical context:

Developed by Emile Durkheim and refined in the mid-20th century by Talcott Parsons. It sees society as a system of interrelated parts that work together to maintain stability. Functionalism is a consensus theory.

Main Ideas:

- Each part of society has a job to keep things running smoothly.
- We learn shared values through institutions like family and school.

Key Theories:

- ****Durkheim's Social Solidarity**** – Schools help bring people together with shared values.
- ****Parsons' Organic Analogy**** – Society is like a body, where all parts must work together.

4. Social Action Theory

Historical context:

Created by Max Weber. Focuses on individual choices and meanings, not just big structures.

Main Ideas:

- People act based on the meanings they give to things.
- Look at everyday behaviour and how we understand others.

Key Theories:

- ****Weber's Social Action Types**** – People act for different reasons: goals, values, emotions, or habits.
- ****Symbolic Interactionism**** – We create society through talking, symbols, and shared meanings.

The Sociology department is looking forward to meeting you in the sixth form in September. Please bring this work with you in the first week to your lessons.