

Preparing to Study at A level

Work for SOCIOLOGY

Below you will find 5 weeks preparation work (around 10 hrs) for your A level course and an Enrolment Task (2 hrs). You will need to do the same for your other two subjects. The final enrolment task must be submitted to Enrolment@StratfordSchool.co.uk by Monday 12th July.

[AQA]

You can find the course specification here:

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

Research Tasks and Wider Reading:

As optional extra areas of study, you might like to try one of the following online 'futurelearn' courses

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/incarceration-prisons-suitable-punishment>

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/media-data>

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/propaganda>

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/reimagining-education>

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/understanding-gender-inequality>

Activities:

Task 1

In Sociology we will be studying 5 key theories or perspectives. These are:

- **Functionalism**
- **Marxism**
- **Feminism**
- **Interactionism**
- **The New Right**

Research each of these and create an A4 resource sheet for each one. This should include key dates, key people and key ideas. You can present it in any way you wish. **(2hours)**

Task 2

For Sociology A-Level you will need to know several key studies for each of the topics that we study. In 'Families and Households' these studies include:

- Ann Oakley 1984 *'Conventional Families'*
- Talcott Parsons 1959 *'The Social Structure of the Family system'*
- Eli Zaretsky *'Capitalism, the Family and Personal Life'*
- Rapoport and Rapoport 1982 *'British families in Transition'*
- Wilmott + Young 1973 *'The Symmetrical Family'*
- Delphy and Leonard 1992 *'Familiar Exploitation'*

Create a learning resource for **ONE** of these key studies to include information on the researcher and their sociological perspective, as well as the findings of the research. Try and think of, or find out, any criticisms of the research. **(2 hours)**

Task 3

For **'Education'** the key studies include:

- Emile Durkheim 1925 – *'Moral Education'*
- Talcott Parsons 1961 – *'The school class as a social system'*
- Bowles + Gintis 1976 – *'Schooling in Capitalist America'*
- Stephen Ball 1981 – *'Beachside Comprehensive'*
- Paul Willis 1977 – *'Learning to Labour'*
- Halsey, Heath + Ridge 1980 – *'Origins + Destinations'*
- Ball, Bowe & Gerwitz 1994 – *'Educational Reform and it's consequences'*

Create a learning resource for **ONE** of these key studies to include information on the researcher and their sociological perspective, as well as the findings of the research. Try and think of, or find out, any criticisms of the research. **(2 hours)**

Task 4

Do some Sociological research of your own on one of the 4 A-Level topics that you will study (Families; Education; Crime; Media). Create a questionnaire or set of interview questions and conduct your own research to collect a sample of 10 answers (remember to use social distancing and 'stay safe'). Come up with your own hypothesis or try one of the following ideas:

- **What is the most common family type in the UK?**
- **Do families share the jobs / chores equally?**
- **Who achieves better in education and why?**
- **Who is most likely to commit crime and why?**
- **What impact does the Media have on Audiences?**

Briefly write up your findings – were they what you expected or not? Did your research method work or would you change it? **(2 hours)**

Task 5

Find out about 2 of the more controversial experiments that Sociologists have conducted. These are:

- **The Obedience and Authority Experiment 1963 (Stanley Milgram)**
- **The Stanford Prison Experiment 1973 (Philip Zimbardo)**

Create a factfile on each of these experiments to include a brief outline of the researcher, the experiment itself and reasons why it was seen as controversial / unethical. **(2 hours)**

Enrolment Task (This task must be sent to Enrolment@StratfordSchool.co.uk):

1. Read pages 1-10 '**Chapter 1: What is Sociology?**' from the recommended text book. You can use the version attached or buy your own copy of the book (you will need it every lesson next year).
AQA A Level Sociology Book One (Napier Press, ISBN: 978-0954007911). This textbook will be available to buy on ParentMail shortly.
2. Use what you have read from Chapter 1: What is Sociology?' to complete all the tasks on pages 1-14 of the attached '**What is Sociology?**' **Student Workbook**.
Either print off the workbook and fill it in by hand OR save and edit the version attached [WhatisSociologyStudentWorkbook.pdf \(napierpress.com\)](#).

You should submit evidence (either the edited workbook or photos of the completed pages) of your completed workbook to Enrolment@StratfordSchool.co.uk by 12th July 2021.

You must **also** save the completed workbook and bring it in to school with you in September. Your Sociology teacher will collect this booklet in your first lesson.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr Moore bmoore@stratfordschool.co.uk