

NAME: _____

Welcome to A-level Sociology!

First of all, congratulations on your progression to the next level of your educational career – so, well done!

Secondly, welcome to this dynamic, exciting and challenging subject!
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.

Induction

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
Families & Households
Education

Year 13

Crime and Deviance
Beliefs in Society
Methods of Sociology
Theories of Sociology

Look at the specification for more detail about these topics. 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. <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/sociology/specifications/AQA-7191-7192-SP-2015.PDF>

Task 1

Highlight the topics on your specification and make a note below of the sections there are to each topic:

Education.....

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Theory and Methods (Year 1).....

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Families and
Households.....

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Beliefs in
Society.....

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Crime and Deviance

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Theory and Methods (Year 2)

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What do you think 'Methods in Context' means?

Reading List - Sociology

- Sociological Imagination – C Wright Mills
- 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
- Haralambos
- A wide range of newspapers including The Guardian and Independent

Watching List - Sociology

- Any documentaries, including Panorama, Louis Theroux, Stacey Dooley etc
- Black Mirror series (Netflix)
- Years and Years (BBC i-player)
- Goodfellas
- The Godfather (part 2 is the best)
- 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)
- A Bug's Life or Antz (for Marxism)
- Ted Talks/Sociology

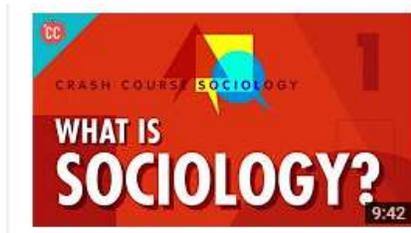
Task 2

Choose something from the Reading and Watching List

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. _____

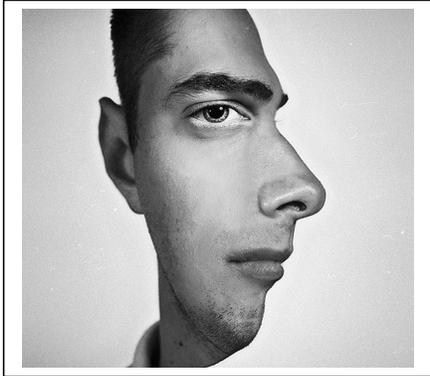
Task 4

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.

Think of 3 different ways society has changed over the last 100 years. Try to be specific about the change.

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

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

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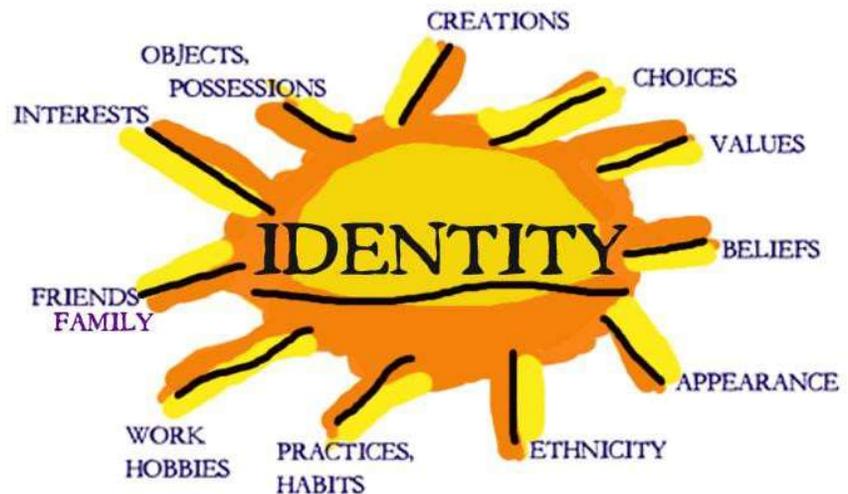
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Task 5 - Identity

Who are you? Are you part of a group, an individual, a student, a sister, a brother?

Identity is about how we see and define ourselves – our personalities – and how

other people see and define us. Many aspects of our individual identity are influenced by **agencies of socialisation**. These are structures or groups of people.



Suggest six examples of structures or groups of people that impact upon you:

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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.

List three agency decisions you have made or will make today.

1.

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2.

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3.

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Make a poster of how your identity is shaped by factors in your life.

Consider **agency** factors and **structural** factors.

Brainstorm some ideas first on what you can include in your poster.

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