

A Level Sociology: Your Summer Start

Get ready for Year 12

Sociology: Unlocking Society's Secrets

Sociology is the study of society, social behavior, and the forces that shape our lives. At its heart, it explores three fundamental questions:

What is happening in society?

- Identifying social trends, patterns, and inequalities.
- Examples: Rising crime rates, changing family structures, increased social media use.

Why is it happening?

- Exploring the underlying causes and factors driving social phenomena.
- Overlaps with: History, Politics, Psychology
- Examples: Poverty, discrimination, lack of education.

What can be done about it?

- Developing solutions and strategies to address social problems and improve society.
- Overlaps with: Social Policy, Economics, Ethics
- Examples: Social programs, policy changes, community initiatives.

Course Expectations: Your Commitment to Success

A Level Sociology is a challenging but rewarding course. To succeed, you'll need to be prepared to commit time, effort, and organisation.

- **Time Commitment:** Expect to dedicate between 4 and 5 hours per week outside of lessons for reading, research, and homework.
- **Organisation:** Keep your notes organised, meet deadlines, and **actively** participate in class discussions.
- **Effort:** Engage with the material, ask questions, and be prepared to think critically about complex social issues.

Getting Started: Essential Resources

To ensure you're ready to hit the ground running in September, you'll need the following resources:

- **Textbook:** [AQA A Level Sociology Book One](#)
- **Online Course:** Access details for our online sociology course will be shared via Classcharts during the first week of September - however you can get ahead now!

Summer Tasks: Your Head Start to A Level Success

Complete the following tasks over the summer to prepare for the course. These tasks are designed to introduce you to key concepts and get you thinking like a sociologist.

1. Watch, Read, Think:

- **Watch:** A documentary or TED Talk related to a sociological issue (e.g., poverty, inequality, education) *here are some suggestions, however you are not limited to these!*
 - *The Social Dilemma* (Netflix)
 - *Educating Yorkshire* (Channel 4)
 - *Panorama: Britain's Hidden Homeless*
 - CrashCourse Sociology (YouTube)
- **Read:** A news article or blog post about a current social trend.
- **Think:** Reflect on what you've watched and read. What are the key issues? What are the different perspectives? How does this relate to your own life?

2. Mini Research Task:

Sociology is all about asking questions. Pick **one** of the following questions and write 300–500 words in response. Use real-world examples and include your opinion.

- Has family life in the UK changed for better or worse in recent years?
- Is education fair? Who benefits most from our current system?
- Why does crime exist? Can it ever be fully prevented?
- Does the media reflect society, or does it shape it?

3. Specification Scavenger Hunt:

Find the AQA A Level Sociology specification [here](#). Find the answers to the following:

- What are the three papers you'll sit at A Level?
- What are some of the key topics studied in each paper?
- What skills will you be assessed on (look at the "Assessment Objectives")?
- What is "Methods in Context"?

4. Organisational Checklist:

- Purchase a large ring binder with dividers.
- Make sure you have highlighters and pens for note-taking.
- Create a dedicated study space at home.

Final Thoughts: Embrace Curiosity

Sociology is about questioning the world around us and developing a critical understanding of social issues. Embrace your curiosity, challenge assumptions, and be prepared to see the world in a new light. We look forward to welcoming you to A Level Sociology at SNS!