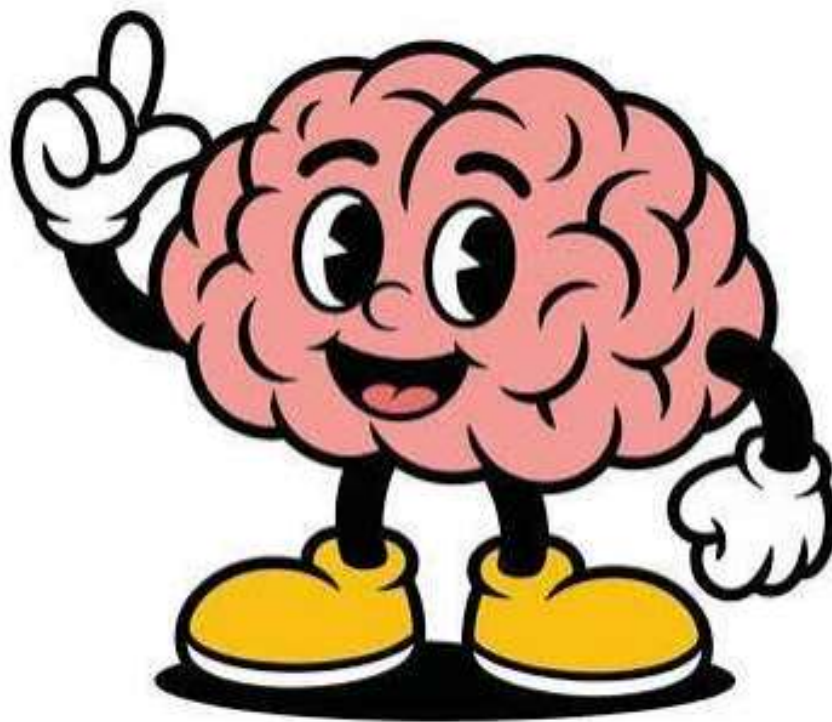




A-level Sociology Introduction Summer Project 2026



This research-based project is designed to give you an ideal grounding for your A-level Sociology course.

Research and complete the tasks independently over the summer to get a head start and prepare for the key topics within the course.

Present the tasks in any format you like and bring it with you to your first lesson after the summer.



Good luck and Enjoy ☺

Mrs Pasco





The AQA Course

100% Exam (three papers) 0% Coursework

Paper 1 – Education with Theory and Methods

Topics:

Theories of Education
Social Groups (Social Class, Ethnicity, Gender)
Education Policy

Paper 2 – Topics in Sociology

Families & Households – Theories,
Childhood, Demographic Trends
Beliefs in Society – Theories,
Fundamentalism, Social Change

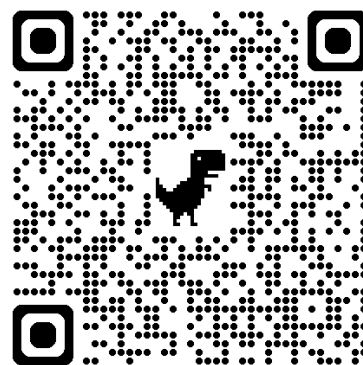
Paper 3 – Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

Topics:

Theories of Crime
Globalisation and Crimes of the Powerful
Social Groups (Social Class, Ethnicity,
Gender)

Watch & listen:

Scan the QR code for this short online course providing an introduction to the key concepts of AQA A-level Sociology. This will give you a really good understanding of what the course entails.



Task 1, Paper 1: Changes in education

Mini Experiment:

Differential experiences and achievement in school



In this experiment you should interview or design a questionnaire to ask a range of people about their experiences of school. This will work best if you ask people of different ages (great/grandparents, parents and friends), different ethnicities and both boys and girls. You can ask as many or as few people as you like. As the experimenter you should record the answers in some way.

Questions you could ask include:

- 1) Were you treated in the same way as other students?
- 2) Did you have the same opportunities as other students?
- 3) Were you successful in school?

Now think about and explain:

- 1) What might be the reasons for any difference in experiences in school?
- 2) What do your results suggest about the link between experiences and achievement?

Now research and answer the following...

- 1) What was the school leaving age in 1955? How has that changed over time?
- 2) What is corporal punishment? What types of corporal punishment are there?
- 3) Find out the differences between grammar schools, secondary moderns, comprehensives and academies.

Task 2, Paper 2: Families & Households



Babies, Babies, Babies ... do you plan to have any?



Watch the video and answer the following from a Sociological perspective ...

What are some of the reasons the birth rate is falling?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OYFE-SBXjVM>

What can the government do to increase the birth rate?

“Children these days don't know they're born ...”



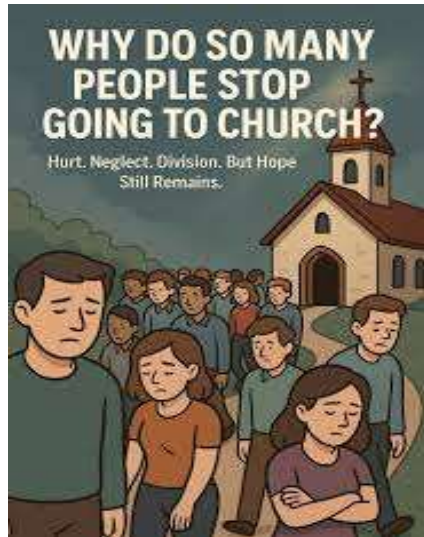
Consider, research and answer the following from a Sociological perspective ...

How is childhood better now than it was in the past? Give examples.

How might it be viewed as worse? Give examples.

Task 3, Paper 2: Beliefs in Society

Are we becoming less religious ... or more ...?



Research Task:

- 1) What are the signs we are becoming less religious in society? Try to give 5 signs.
- 2) Can you find any signs that we are becoming more religious?

Religious Organisations ...



Explain the different characteristics of churches, denominations, cults and sects

Christian Denominations



Task 4, Paper 3: Crime and Deviance

What are norms? What is deviance?



Consider, research and explain ...

1) What are the unwritten norms of society? Try to articulate at least 3.

2) What is deviant behaviour? Try to give at least 3 examples.

3) How do Functionalists claim crime might be positive for society?



Research Task ...

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice>

<https://www.crimesurvey.co.uk/en/index.html>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LN211T_bHIE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMAitlr3EtQ>

Use statistics to produce a fact file on which groups in society are more criminal:

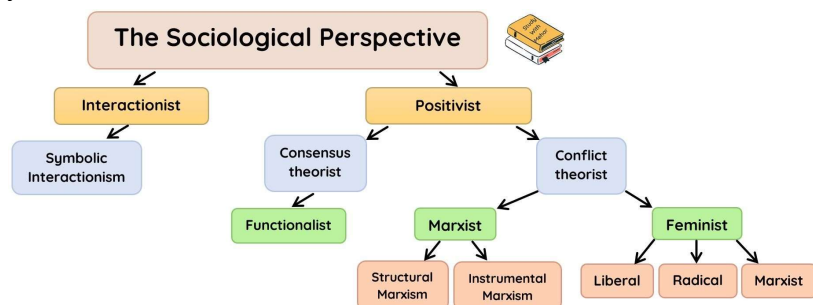
- 1) Men or Women
- 2) White or Ethnic Minorities
- 3) Middle Class or Working Class

Task 5, Paper 1 & 3: Theory and Methods

Theory

Make a fact file of 5 key points on each of the main Sociological theories:

- ✓ Functionalism
- ✓ New Right
- ✓ Marxism
- ✓ Feminism
- ✓ Interactionism (Social Action Theory)
- ✓ Postmodernism



Methods

Watch the '#Introduction to Sociological Research' video:

[Introduction to Sociology - Sociological Research](#)

There are a range of ways we gather research in Sociology: questionnaires, experiments, documents, official statistics, interviews and observation.

Watch the videos to see some of these research methods in action. What are the **advantages** and what are the **problems** of using these types of research method?

[Girls Compete To Be New Head Girl! & Teachers Tackle Attendance In Class | Educating Yorkshire | EP8](#)

[Panorama - Behind Bars: Prison Undercover](#)



Useful Resources & Further Reading

To help you on your way...

Websites:

- ***The Teacher Sociology*** – A really good YouTube channel that goes through most topics in Sociology
- ***Tutor2u*** – Contains lots of free resources and videos on topics within Sociology

Equipment list:

Please make sure you have all of this equipment ready for our first lesson!

- A4 Ring binder folder
- Plastic wallets
- File organisers
- Pencil case including:
- Pens, pencils, highlighters, ruler, calculator, glue stick and colours

Extra reading:

- ***Gang Leader For A Day*** – Sudhir Venkatesh
- ***Chavs – The Demonisation of the Working Class*** – Owen Jones
- ***Lads and Ladettes*** – Carolyn Jackson

Go one step further:

[What Is Sociology?: Crash Course Sociology #1](#)

Watch the video and list 5 things that you have learned about Sociology.



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