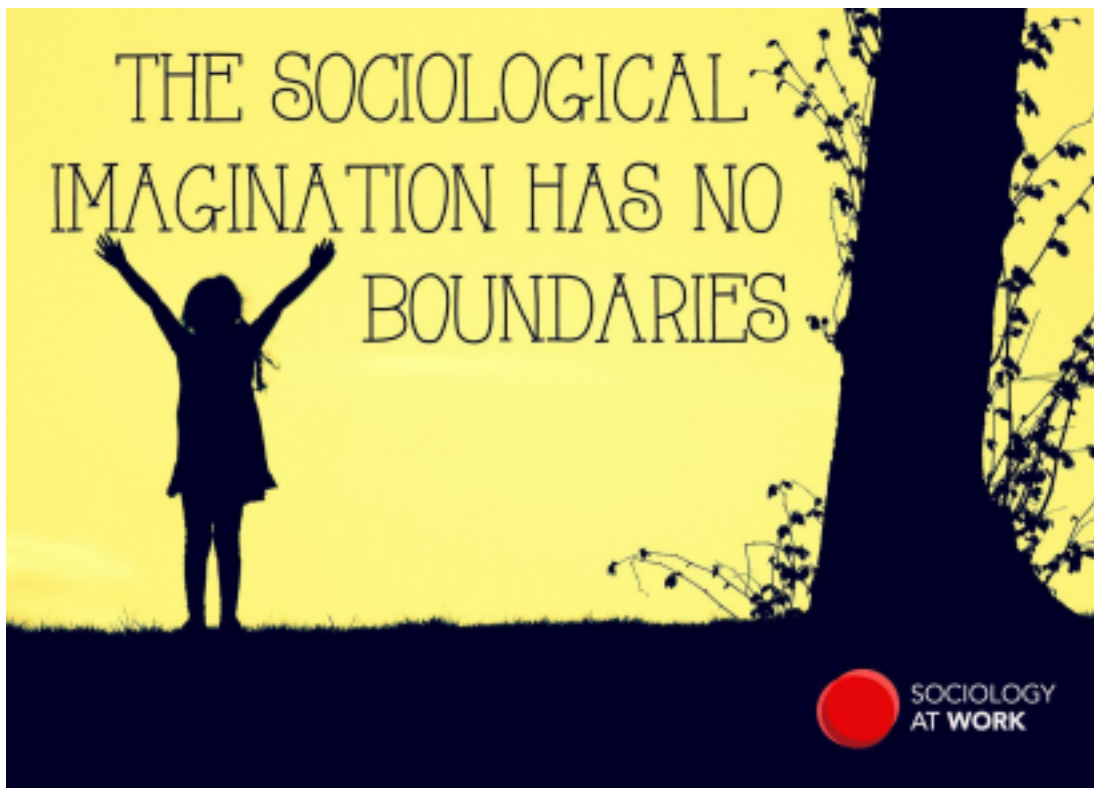




**Year 12 Course Induction Booklet
2026-27
Sociology**



Name:
Tutor Group:

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1. Introduction to Sociology


Sociology is the study of society, how it functions, and how people interact within it. It explores how different institutions—like the family, education system, religion, and the legal system—shape our behaviour, beliefs, and opportunities.

You'll investigate questions like:


- Why do some groups achieve more than others in education?
- What causes crime and how should society respond?
- Is religion still important in a modern world?
- How have families changed over time?

Sociology is an important subject to take because it helps you understand the world around you and your place in it. It teaches you to think critically about society—how it works, why inequalities exist, and how people's lives are shaped by factors like class, gender, ethnicity, religion, and culture.

Here are a few key reasons why Sociology is valuable:

 It helps you make sense of society

Sociology gives you tools to understand social institutions like the family, education system, religion, and the justice system. You'll explore how these structures impact people's opportunities, beliefs, and behaviours.

 It develops critical thinking and analytical skills

You'll learn to question assumptions, analyse arguments, interpret evidence, and evaluate different perspectives. These are skills valued in higher education and by employers.

 It encourages empathy and awareness

By studying different cultures, social groups, and worldviews, you gain a broader understanding of people's experiences and the challenges they face. This can help you become a more open-minded, informed, and compassionate person.

What can Sociology lead to?

Studying Sociology helps you develop critical thinking, analytical skills, and an understanding of diversity and inequality. It can lead to careers in:

- Social work
- Teaching
- Law
- Criminology
- Journalism
- Public relations
- Human resources
- Policing
- Government and policy making

2. Learning Agreement

Requirements

All students will be expected to get to all lessons on time. In addition to this, you will be expected to complete other work in your own time. You will be required to do prior reading to each lesson giving yourself a foundation of knowledge on each subject.

Class work

Lesson time will focus on checking understanding of previous reading, and evaluating key terms and studies. Class time will be dedicated more to analysis of key topics and studies and how they can be applied to exam questions.

Homework

You will be given reading to complete in individual learning time, and revision tasks. These will be expected to be completed on time and assessed formally to enable effective revision and learning to take place.

Monitoring

You will be regularly assessed in the form of learning conversations, past papers, critical debates, presentations etc. Students will be assessed in accordance with AQA's marking criteria and assessment objectives.

Your target

We want you to achieve the highest possible grade and we will target you a grade that you can achieve, providing you follow the course requirements. This target grade will be based on your GCSE grade and our experience. We will discuss this grade with you and alter it over time if necessary. It is understood that many students will not have experience of Sociology therefore regular assessment in the form of learning conversations will take place to enable individual targets to be set and reviewed.

Aims of the Sociology Department

1. Every student who is taught by the Sociology Department is given the same learning opportunities as all other students.
2. Students are to be supported as best as can be with their learning development as Sociology.
3. Students are to be given a wide range of learning resources through booklets, group, paired and individual tasks that enable them to achieve to the highest level of their ability and enjoy their learning.
4. That every Sociology Students is given opportunity to develop their Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural knowledge of the world and themselves. 5. To provide extra provision outside of lesson time for every student to help develop their work to the best level that is possible.

3. Course Overview

You will study the following AQA A-level Sociology topics:

Education

You will explore:

- The role and function of education in society.
- Class, gender, and ethnicity differences in educational achievement.
- Processes within schools such as labelling, setting, and subcultures.
- The impact of educational policies like marketisation and academisation.
- Research methods in the context of education.

Key Theories: Functionalism (Durkheim, Parsons), Marxism (Bowles & Gintis, Althusser), Feminism, New Right (Chubb & Moe), Interactionism (Becker, Rosenthal & Jacobson).

Key Debates:

- Is the education system meritocratic?
- Does education reproduce inequality or promote social mobility?
- Has marketisation improved standards or created further inequality?
- Should education be vocational or academic?

Family and Households

You will explore:

- Changing patterns in marriage, divorce, cohabitation, and childbearing.
- The diversity of modern family structures.
- The roles of men, women, and children in the family.
- Demographic trends (e.g. ageing population, migration).
- Perspectives on the family and the impact of social policies.

Key Theories: Functionalism (Murdock, Parsons), Marxism (Engels, Zaretsky), Feminism (Delphy & Leonard, Ansley), Personal Life Perspective (Smart), New Right (Murray).

Key Debates:

- Is the nuclear family in decline?
- Is the family becoming more equal and symmetrical?
- Has childhood become more child-centred or toxic?
- Do families oppress or support individuals?
- Is family diversity a sign of progress or decline?

Beliefs in Society

You will explore:

- Definitions and functions of religion and belief systems.
- The relationship between religion and social change.
- The impact of secularisation and religious fundamentalism.
- The role of religion in global society.
- Different types of religious organisations (churches, sects, cults).

Key Theories: Functionalism (Durkheim), Marxism (Marx), Weberian theory (Weber), Feminism (El Saadawi), Postmodernism (Lyotard), Secularisation (Bruce).

Key Debates:

- Is religion a conservative force or agent of change?
- Is society becoming more or less religious?
- Are new religious movements a sign of spiritual revival or decline?
- Is religion oppressive or empowering (especially for women and minorities)?
- Does globalisation lead to greater diversity or fundamentalism?

Crime and Deviance

You will explore:

- Definitions and measurements of crime.
- Patterns and trends in crime by class, gender, ethnicity, and age.
- The relationship between media and crime.
- Globalisation, green crime, and state crime.
- Crime control, punishment, and surveillance.

Key Theories: Functionalism (Durkheim, Merton), Subcultural Theory (Cohen, Cloward & Ohlin), Marxism (Chambliss), Neo-Marxism (Hall), Feminism (Carlen, Heidensohn), Interactionism (Becker), Right and Left Realism.

Key Debates:

- Is crime the result of inequality or individual choice?
- How does labelling affect crime statistics and outcomes?
- Is the criminal justice system biased?
- Is surveillance a form of social control or protection?
- Is media to blame for increasing crime or moral panics?

Theory

You will explore:

- The main sociological theories that explain how society works.
- How different theories explain key social institutions like family, education, crime, and religion.
- How theories interpret social problems such as inequality, crime, and change.
- The strengths and weaknesses of each theory and how they compare.
- How theories have developed and why sociologists disagree.

Key Theories:

- Functionalism: Views society as a system where parts work together (Durkheim, Parsons).
- Marxism: Focuses on class conflict and inequality (Marx, Gramsci).
- Feminism: Examines gender inequalities and patriarchy.
- Interactionism: Studies how people create society through daily interactions (Becker, Mead).
- Postmodernism: Challenges traditional ideas about society and knowledge.

Key Debates:

- Is society mainly stable and orderly or conflict-ridden?
- Should sociology focus on big, overall theories or small-scale, everyday interactions?
- Can one theory explain everything, or is a mix of ideas better?
- Is sociology a science or more of an interpretive subject?

Research Methods

You will explore:

- Different ways sociologists gather and study information about society.
- How to collect quantitative data (numbers) and qualitative data (words and meanings).
- How to plan research that is ethical, reliable, valid, and representative.
- Practical challenges in research such as access, time, funding, and safety.
- How sociological values and theory affect research choices.

Key Theories/Approaches:

- Quantitative Methods: Surveys and experiments that produce numerical data.
- Qualitative Methods: Interviews, observations, and case studies that provide detailed understanding.
- Positivism: Belief that sociology can be a science using objective methods.
- Interpretivism: Belief that society should be studied by understanding meanings people give to actions.
- Ethics: Principles that protect research participants.

Key Debates:

- Should sociology aim to be a science with objective facts or focus on understanding meanings?
- How do researchers balance ethical concerns with the need to collect valuable data?
- Can sociologists be completely objective, or are their values always involved?
- Which research methods best capture the complexity of social life?

4. Assessment Overview

Paper	Topics Covered	Duration & Weighting	Question Types
Paper 1	Education + Theory & Methods	2 hours – 33.3%	Short answers, 10 mark, 30 mark essays
Paper 2	Families & Beliefs in Society	2 hours – 33.3%	Two 10 mark + two 20 mark essays (one for each topic)
Paper 3	Crime & Deviance + Theory & Methods	2 hours – 33.3%	10 mark, 30 mark essays, Methods in Context

Assessment Objectives

AO1 – Knowledge and Understanding

Define and describe key concepts, theories, and studies.

Example: Explain the Functionalist view of the family.

AO2 – Application

Apply theories and concepts to specific situations or data.

Example: Apply Marxist views to explain differences in educational achievement.

AO3 – Analysis and Evaluation

Assess the strengths and weaknesses of theories or arguments.

Compare perspectives and support your points with evidence.

Example: Evaluate Feminist views on the role of religion.

To succeed, you must use all three skills in your exam answers.

5. Example Exam Questions

EDUCATION (Paper 1)

◆ 4-Mark Questions (Knowledge)

Skills: AO1 – Identify two points. Be concise and accurate.

Suggest two ways globalisation has impacted education.

Suggest two reasons why working-class pupils may underachieve.

What to Do: Give short, accurate answers. Can use bullet points.

◆ 6-Mark Questions (Short Explanation)

Skills: AO1 + AO2 – Explain two points with brief development.

Outline three ways teacher labelling may affect achievement.

Outline three reasons for differences in subject choice by gender.

What to Do: Give short, accurate answers. Can use bullet points.

◆ 10-Mark Questions (With Item)

Skills: AO2 – Apply from the item + AO3 – analyse.

Applying material from Item A, analyse two effects of teacher expectations.

Applying material from Item A, analyse two ways marketisation may affect class differences.

What to Do: Use the item directly. Identify and explain two sociological points, clearly linked to the item.

◆ 30-Mark Essay

Skills: AO1 + AO2 + AO3 – knowledge, application, and evaluation.

Evaluate the view that education reproduces social inequality.

Evaluate the view that internal factors are the main cause of gender differences in education.

What to Do: Structure as a full essay – intro, 2–4 points with evaluation, counter-arguments, and conclusion.

BELIEFS IN SOCIETY (Paper 2)

◆ 10-Mark Questions

Outline and explain two ways religion can be a force for social change.

Applying material from Item A, analyse two reasons for the growth of fundamentalism.

What to Do: Identify sociological arguments (e.g., Weber, Giddens), support with theory/examples.

- ◆ 20-Mark Essay

Evaluate the view that religion is a conservative force.

Evaluate the view that society is becoming more secular.

What to Do: Full essay structure – balance contrasting perspectives, conclude with your judgment.

FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS (Paper 2)

- ◆ 10-Mark Questions

Outline and explain two reasons for changes in birth rate since 1900.

Applying material from Item A, analyse two effects of ageing population on family life.

What to Do: Use the item, identify clear causes/effects, support with theory.

- ◆ 20-Mark Essay

Evaluate the view that the division of labour has become more equal.

Evaluate feminist explanations of the role of the family.

What to Do: Compare and evaluate multiple perspectives (e.g., liberal, radical, functionalist), use examples.

CRIME AND DEVIANCE (Paper 3)

- ◆ 4-Mark Questions

Suggest two reasons why crimes such as domestic abuse may be under-reported.

What to Do: Give short, accurate answers. Can use bullet points.

- ◆ 6-Mark Questions

Outline three ways surveillance may act as social control.

Outline three reasons why ethnic minorities may be overrepresented in crime statistics.

What to Do: Give short, accurate answers. Can use bullet points.

◆ 10-Mark Questions

Applying material from Item A, analyse two effects of media on fear of crime.

What to Do: Two well-developed points with examples or theorists, using the item if provided.

◆ 30-Mark Essay

Evaluate sociological explanations of ethnic differences in offending.

Evaluate the view that crime is functional for society.

What to Do: Explore multiple theories (e.g., functionalism, Marxism), evaluate each, and conclude.

✓ Summary Table of Question Types

Mark	Question Type	Skills Required	How to Answer
4 marks	Definition/Identify	AO1 – knowledge	Define or list two simple points – no detail needed
6 marks	Definition/Identify	AO1 - knowledge	Define or list three simple points – no detail needed
10 marks	Identify/Analysis	AO1, AO2, AO3 - knowledge and analyse	Explain two points, link theory and examples and analyse
10 marks	Application/Analysis	AO2 + AO3 – apply material, analyse	Use the item, explain two points, link theory and examples and analyse
20 marks	Short essay	AO1, AO2, AO3 – depth & evaluation	Cover at least four points, theory, counterpoints, examples, detailed conclusion
30 marks	Full essay	AO1, AO2, AO3 – depth & evaluation	Full essay with 5-6 points, theory, counterpoints, examples, detailed conclusion

6. Curriculum Overview Year 12-13

	Curriculum Content	Curriculum Content	Suggested Reading or Extension Activities
Half Term 1 (Sept-Oct)	Introduction to Sociology Research Methods Sampling Questionnaires Observations Other primary research methods	Introduction to Sociology Research Methods Research process and evaluation of the process Experiments Interviews	Seneca Department Revision Booklets Past Paper Exam booklets Hectic Teacher Resources
Half Term 2 (Nov-Dec)	Theory Functionalist Theory Modernity, Post and Late Modernity Sociology and Science Objectivity and Values	Theory Marxist Theory Feminist Theory Social Actions Theory	Seneca Department Revision Booklets Past Paper Exam booklets Hectic Teacher Resources
Half Term 3 (Jan-Feb)	Theory Sociology and Social Policy Education Role of Education	Family Theories of the Family Family Policy	Seneca Department Revision Booklets Past Paper Exam booklets Hectic Teacher Resources
Half Term 4 (Feb-Mar)	Education Education Policies Social Class and Achievement	Family Family Diversity Couples	Seneca Department Revision Booklets Past Paper Exam booklets Hectic Teacher Resources
Half Term 5 (Apr-May)	Education Social Class and Achievement continued. Revision for End of Year Test	Family Childhood Revision for End of Year Test	Seneca Department Revision Booklets Past Paper Exam booklets Hectic Teacher Resources
Half Term 6 (Jun-Jul)	Education Ethnicity and achievement	Family Demography	Seneca Department Revision Booklets Past Paper Exam booklets Hectic Teacher Resources

Examples of Home Learning Tasks	Students will participate in flip learning, they will be expected to do pre-reading including notes and comprehension questions before lessons. Students will be set thinking hard tasks in line with HFCS Study Guide to consolidate learning.
Assessment Tasks, Methods & Frequency	Students will participate in regular testing using past paper and exam style questions in line with the assessment schedule. These assessments will be closed book. These assessments range from 10 mark to 30 mark questions.
Equipment that Students Need	Black pen, green pen, highlighters, folders, folder dividers, plastic wallets.

Useful Websites	<p>Assessment Resources: AQA Past Papers/Mark Schemes: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192/assessment-resources</p> <p>Specification at a glance: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192/specification-at-a-glance</p> <p>New Sites: The Conversation - https://theconversation.com/uk</p> <p>The Guardian - https://www.theguardian.com/uk</p> <p>The Week - https://www.theweek.co.uk/</p> <p>Sociology Podcasts and Radio Shows: Thinking Allowed - https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qy05</p> <p>Analysis - https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006r4vz</p> <p>More or Less - https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qshd</p> <p>The Sociology Show</p> <p>SAGE Sociology</p> <p>Methods</p> <p>allsociology: take 1</p> <p>Revision Resources: https://www.hectic-teacher.co.uk/sociology-support</p>
	<p>Extra-Curricular Activities & Career Opportunities</p> <p>Career Opportunities: https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/sociology</p>

Who Can I Contact?	Head of Social Science	Miss Duncan
	Teachers of Year 12 Sociology	Miss Osei - ms.osei@holyfamilycatholicschool.co.uk

	Curriculum Content	Curriculum Content	Suggested Reading or Extension Activities
Half Term 1 (Sept-Oct)	Education Gender and Achievement Methods in Context Beliefs in Society Role of Religion	Family Changing family patterns. Crime and Deviance Introduction to crime and deviance. What is crime	Seneca Department Revision Booklets Past Paper Exam booklets Hectic Teacher Resources
Half Term 2 (Nov-Dec)	Beliefs in Society Religion as a Conservative Force Religion and Postmodernity Religious Organisations	Crime and Deviance Subcultures and crime Functionalist theory of crime. Marxism and crime Labelling theory and crime. Realism and crime	Seneca Department Revision Booklets Past Paper Exam booklets Hectic Teacher Resources
Half Term 3 (Jan-Feb)	Beliefs in Society Religious Participation Religion and Global Context	Crime and Deviance Gender and crime Ethnicity and crime	Seneca Department Revision Booklets Past Paper Exam booklets Hectic Teacher Resources
Half Term 4 (Feb-Mar)	Beliefs in Society Religion and Science and Ideology Secularisation	Crime and Deviance Crimes of the powerful Globalisation	Seneca Department Revision Booklets Past Paper Exam booklets Hectic Teacher Resources
Half Term 5 (Apr-May)	Revision	Crime and Deviance Punishment Revision	Seneca Department Revision Booklets Past Paper Exam booklets Hectic Teacher Resources
Half Term 6 (Jun-Jul)	Revision	Revision	Seneca Department Revision Booklets Past Paper Exam booklets Hectic Teacher Resources

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Assessment Tasks, Methods & Frequency	Students will participate in regular testing using past paper and exam style questions in line with the assessment schedule. These assessments will be closed book. These assessments range from 10 mark to 30 mark questions.
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	<p>Extra-Curricular Activities & Career Opportunities</p> <p>Career Opportunities: https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/sociology</p>

Who Can I Contact?	Head of Social Science	Miss Duncan
	Teachers of Year 13 Sociology	Miss Osei - ms.osei@holyfamilycatholicschool.co.uk

7. Useful Links and Resources

Useful Links and Resources

Official Specification and Past Papers

AQA Sociology Specification: www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192

AQA Past Papers and Mark Schemes: www.aqa.org.uk/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes

Websites for Revision and Study

Sociology Review Magazine: www.sociologyreview.com

Tutor2U Sociology: www.tutor2u.net/sociology

The Sociology Guy (blog and resources): www.thesociologyguy.com

Simply Sociology: www.simplysociology.com

Podcasts

Sociology in Focus: www.sociologyinfocus.com

Thinking Allowed (BBC Radio 4): www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qy05

The Sociological Review Podcast: www.thesociologicalreview.com/podcast

The Social Science Bites Podcast: www.socialsciencespace.com/social-science-bites

Books

"Sociology Themes and Perspectives" by Michael Haralambos

"AQA A Level Sociology" by Mike O'Donnell & Sue Thompson

"Introducing Sociology" by Phil Strong

"Sociology: A Brief Introduction" by Richard T. Schaefer

TV Shows and Documentaries

Benefits Street (Channel 4) — explores poverty and welfare

Educating Yorkshire (Channel 4) — looks at education and schools

The Secret Life of 4, 5 and 6 Year Olds (Channel 4) — family and childhood

Making a Murderer (Netflix) — crime and justice system

Louis Theroux Documentaries (various topics including crime and religion)

Journals and Articles

The British Journal of Sociology: www.britsoc.co.uk/publications/british-journal-of-sociology

Sociology Review Journal: www.sociologyreview.com/journal

The Sociological Review: www.thesociologicalreview.com

The Guardian's Sociology Section (news and analysis): www.theguardian.com/society/sociology