

Thinking Sociologically

In this summer work we want to give you an introduction to what Sociology is and what it means to think sociologically. If you enjoy thinking this way, then Sociology is a great choice for you.

When students tell us why they have picked Sociology some students tell us that one reason is they have heard it is easy! It is absolutely right that sociology is **interesting** and **accessible** – we study lots of things you will be familiar with, education, family, crime and beliefs. However, like all A levels it is an academic subject. Our course involves learning interesting vocabulary, thinking critically and engaging with academic ideas. This summer work should introduce you to some of these more academic ideas and help you see how studying at A Level is a step up from your learning at GCSE.

We look forward to seeing the work you complete. Please remember this is the first piece of work you will complete for your teacher and first impressions count – here are a few tips to make a great first impression

- 1) Please complete this work to a **high standard** – it doesn't have to be perfect, but it does need to be a good example of your best work.
- 2) Please complete **handwritten on A4 lined paper** that is hole punched and has a margin – this will help with filing this work later (if you were allowed to type at GCSE then it is ok to type).
- 3) Get in touch before the hand in day if you have **any questions** – we are happy to help.

Task 1: What is Sociology?

Part of A Level Study will involve summarising knowledge from articles, books or textbooks. One way to summarise is to use Cornell Notes.

- a) Watch this video about how to create Cornell Notes <https://lsc.cornell.edu/how-to-study/taking-notes/cornell-note-taking-system/>
- b) Read/Watch these two sources and make rough notes as you watch
<https://www.britsoc.co.uk/what-is-sociology/> (read)
<https://youtu.be/7ZJlFxDavpc> (watch)
- c) Create a Cornell note summary with the title 'What is Sociology?' In your notes you must refer to both sources – the BSA and LSE.

Support: You may use the 'In this video' subheadings in the LSE video as subheadings in your Cornell Notes

Task 2: Sociology and research

Sociology is based on research around social problems. Issues such as youth identity, work and careers have been significant in the news over the last few years, as the UK faces a youth employment crisis.

- a) **Read** the following article. John Boumphney is the head of Amazon UK, and he thinks that the way we educate and prepare young people for work needs to change.

[Stop blaming young people for being unemployed, says Amazon's UK boss - BBC News](#) –

Note, there is also a link to the full interview on BBC sounds, if you would like to know more

- b) **Knowledge:** Read this article and answer the following questions
- I. Outline the article. What is his main argument?
 - II. What are the statistics around youth unemployment cited in the article? How do they strengthen the argument?
 - III. Who (or what) is to blame, according to John Boumphney?
 - IV. What suggestions are made to tackle the crisis?
 - V. How do real life examples of young people struggling to find work add to the argument?
- c) **Creative task:** What do you think can be done differently in education to tackle the statement made in the interview that “(the education system is) *not producing young people who are ready for work*”? For each of these questions write at least **one paragraph in full sentences**.
- I. How can we ensure that the findings of this research don't create stereotypes about young people, education and work and shift the blame onto the individuals?
 - II. How can schools support students into their next steps into the world of work? Do qualifications need to change? Or pastoral care? Or both?
 - III. How do you feel ready this article? What advice would you give to a younger person in year 10 who might feel worried about their GCSE year and beyond?

Task 3: Thinking Sociologically

- a) Read this university guide on effective mind mapping (it will download a PDF file)
<https://www.adelaide.edu.au/writingcentre/sites/default/files/docs/learningguide-mindmapping.pdf>
- b) **Watch** this video that gives a summary of the sociological imagination
<https://youtu.be/aZDYSNgaCNQ>
- c) **Read** the attached article 'Thinking Sociologically' (at the end of this document)
- d) Create a mind map (using the guidance above) showing the different elements of what it means to think sociologically

Task 4: Thinking Sociologically: Super Curricular learning

One of the most exciting parts of being a Sociologist is developing your sociological awareness of the world around you. Sociology gives you a “special lens”, where you learn to look at the world differently and critically. A good way to put your new sociological skills to practice engaging in a range of media and news. Sociology will give you the tools to think critically and understand the social world in more depth.

Please note that Sociology deals with difficult issues and as such some of the examples below may include difficult material. Please select something that you will be interested in and is appropriate for you.

Each of these super curricular tasks have been selected by members of the Sociology team.

- a) Choose **one** of these options to listen to/watch or read
- b) **Write three paragraphs:**
 - a. What did you choose and why?
 - b. What issues included in your resource that you think are relevant to the study of sociology and why?
 - c. Select one of those issues and explain why it is an important aspect of our society for us to think critically about

Option 1: A Book available free from your local library, remember you can ask them to order it for you

- 1) Fake History, Otto English
- 2) Wild Swans, Jung Chang
- 3) Animal Farm, George Orwell

Option 2: A Documentary – all available on iplayer

- 1) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0027ffx> - Idris Elba on knife crime
- 2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PkssqscrrrU> – Growing up poor – Child poverty in the UK
- 3) [BBC One - Panorama, Is Britain Broke?](#)
- 4) [Panorama - Lockdown Kids: Five Years On - BBC iPlayer](#)
- 5) [Panorama - Britain's Mouldy Homes - BBC iPlayer](#)

Option 3: A podcast- available online

- 1) Thinking Allowed: Podcast linked to Sociology <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qy05>
- 2) Decolonising Buddhism: <https://www.therepodcast.co.uk/post/s7-e12-the-one-about-decolonising-buddhism> (good if you are also going to study RE)

Option 4: A film/ TV series

- 1) Dune

- 2) Hunger Games
- 3) District Nine
- 4) Noughts and Crosses' is available on IPlayer

Check list – print this off and have ready to hand in with your work

Name: _____

Complete the evaluation below and **hand this in with all 4 tasks**

	Task	To hand in	Reflection	Tick to show completed
1	What is Sociology?	Cornell Notes summarising 'What is Sociology'	What were the positives and limitations of Cornell notetaking?	
2	Sociological research	Knowledge questions and a paragraph on each of the reflection questions		
3	Thinking Sociologically	Mindmap of what it means to think sociologically	How is mindmapping distinct from a spider diagram?	

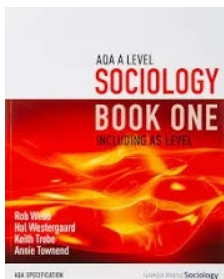
5	Super curricular	Three paragraphs	
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Getting ready for September: What will you need?

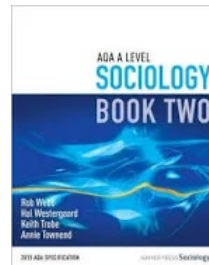
Students who join Sociology at Long Road are required to have the following books. If you are entitled to the mainstream bursary these books will be funded by college. All other students should purchase their own copies. <https://napierpress.com/buy-sociology-books/> .

Please make sure you get the most recent addition 2022

Textbook 1 (2022 edition)



Textbook 2 (2022 edition)



You will also need:

- Lined paper with margins and hole punched
- Pens
- Highlighters
- A small day folder
- 3 ring binders – one for each exam paper to be bought during the year

Finally, a little extra thing to think about before your first lesson. Donald Trump has taken steps to ban Sociological learning in the state of Florida (article below). Given what you know about Sociology now, why do you think this is?

[Florida axes sociology as required class at state universities in latest attack on 'woke' | Florida | The Guardian](#)