

## Summer preparation work for Post-16 students studying Sociology

Tasks will help to introduce you to a range of concepts and ideas in Sociology and help develop an understanding of relevant modern examples.

These are excellent to begin thinking about now – they can be used as examples in essay answers.

- 1) Write at least a side of A4 explaining the relevance of one song, artist, film, book or event to sociology. Use sociological concepts to prove that it's relevant in your explanation.

A good list of sociological concepts can be found here for Y11 students who may be unfamiliar:

<https://revisesociology.com/introduction-to-sociology/>



- 2) Keep an eye on the news, any news stories relevant to Sociology that you can find now will be incredibly useful. Topic list below. It would be useful install a news app, such as the BBC news app. **Useful articles can also be found on the department twitter at @AAASociology.**

- Educational achievement (who does best, who is most likely to fail, what policies have the government introduced, why are league tables important, minority groups, white British males, middle class schools)
- Women in careers (who are they, what problems exist, imbalance of genders in high powered careers)
- Different types of families becoming more popular in the UK
- Migration to and from the UK and the reasons for this
- Representations in the media of different groups (working class people, the wealthy, the old, ethnic minorities)
- How has childhood changed? Does social media have a positive or negative impact

- 3) Collate any ideas you have found in the above tasks into an A4 spider diagram which attempts to explain 'what is Sociology'.

- 4) A number of very famous novels are also available via the department twitter (@AAASociology). Many of these are out of copyright and can be freely read as a PDF. Examples include 1984, A Brave New World and Animal Farm.

- 5) A very useful documentary series called 'Growing Up Gifted' has just aired on the BBC and is available on iPlayer. This would be an excellent introduction to the education topic that we study first. You can watch this and make a note of any key ideas that you notice that you believe will be relevant to sociology. It would also be useful to write an explanation of **who you believe shaped your own educational experiences** in terms of subjects you chose, your level of achievement and your work ethic.

**Additional links for improving subject knowledge and preparing for studying at A-Level**

The British Sociological Association: <https://www.britisoc.co.uk/>

The Guardian Education <https://www.theguardian.com/education>

Any recent Panorama or dispatches programme <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b006t14n/panorama>

Revisesociology.com (stick to Intro, Education and Families and Households sections) <https://revisesociology.com/>

allsociology Podcasts <https://anchor.fm/allsociology>

Wider reading list, \* notes a novel available free online due to copyright.

Society/State Control/Marxism	1984 – George Orwell * Animal Farm – George Orwell * A Brave New World – Aldous Huxley * We, The Watched – Adam Bender Lord Of The Flies – William Golding Communist Manifesto – Karl Marx The Handmaid’s Tale – Margaret Atwood The Spirit Level – Richard Wilkinson The Castle – Franz Kafka
Ethnicity	To Kill A Mockingbird – Harper Lee The Colour Purple – Alice Walker Uncle Tom’s Cabin – Harriet Beecher Stowe Things Fall Apart - Chinua Achebe The Reluctant Fundamentalist – Mohsin Hamid The Kite Runner – Khaled Hosseini Noughts & Crosses – Malorie Blackman
Crime	Chavs – Owen Jones The Establishment and How They Get Away With It – Owen Jones Crime & Punishment – Fyodor Dostoyevsky
Methods	Gang Leader For A Day – Sudhir Venkatesh Learning to Labour – Paul Willis Making a Moonie – Eileen Barker (Beliefs)