## Becoming a Sociologists: Your Journey into A Level Sociology

#### **Transition Preparation Booklet**

The Coopers' Company and Coborn School
 Presented by Mrs Sharmin – Head of Sociology

Explore society. Question assumptions. Understand the world.







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#### A Level Sociology Transition Booklet

#### (\*) 1. Welcome to A Level Sociology at CCCS

Sociology at **The Coopers' Company and Coborn School** is a transformative and thoughtprovoking subject. It opens your eyes to the structures, systems, and relationships that shape everyday life — and empowers you to question them.

This booklet is your starting point. It will guide you through key ideas and tasks that introduce the subject, build your confidence, and help you understand what it means to think like a sociologist.

### What Is the CCCS Sociology Vision?

At CCCS, we believe that Sociology is more than just an academic subject — it's a powerful way of seeing and understanding the world. It helps you explore the **big questions** about **identity**, **inequality**, **power**, and **social change**, and gives you the tools to understand how institutions like family, education, crime, and the media shape our lives.

We aim to nurture students into **working sociologists**: critical thinkers who are equipped with the skills to interpret and engage with the complexity of modern society.

You'll develop transferable skills in **research**, **analysis**, **communication**, and **independent thinking** — skills that are valuable in every career, and essential for becoming an informed and reflective member of society.

#### **These Transition Activities**

By completing this transition booklet, you will:

- Understand what Sociology is and what sociologists' study
- Explore key topics such as **family, education, crime**, and **media**
- ✓ Learn about core themes including inequality, power, and identity
- Practise early **explanation**, evidence and analysis skills
- Show your enthusiasm, independence, and readiness for A Level study

#### 2. Is Sociology for Me?

Sociology is not just about learning facts — it's about asking **big, challenging questions** and learning how to investigate them. If you've ever wondered about the world around you and questioned how society works, then Sociology could be the subject for you.

#### ? Is Sociology for Me?

Are you curious about how society really works — and why some people seem to have more power, choices, or opportunities than others?

If you've ever asked yourself questions like these, then Sociology might be for you:

- ② Is society something real and powerful that shapes our lives or just a shared idea we all believe in?

- • Which is better for understanding people: studying big trends across society, or zooming in on everyday human behaviour?
- GIs British society today more equal, fair, and inclusive or are there still deep divisions and injustices?

If these kinds of questions make you want to learn more, **welcome to Sociology.** Sociology teaches you how to explore the world in a deeper way — not just describing *what* happens, but understanding *why*. It's ideal for students who want to investigate inequality, culture, identity, crime, education, and social change

#### What Kind of Thinker Enjoys Sociology?

You'll enjoy Sociology if you:

- I Like discussing current issues and real-world case studies
- Question what others take for granted
- Series Enjoy learning about different cultures and perspectives
- Are curious about how power and inequality operate in society
- 🖂 Want to build strong skills in writing, evidence, and critical thinking

No prior knowledge is needed — just an open mind and a willingness to think differently.

#### **1** 3. Our A Level Sociology Success

Year	% A–C Grades		
2020	88.9%		
2021	97.1		
2022	90.4		
2023	89.7		
2024	96.3%		

#### ✓ Consistently above the national average

A proven track record of challenge, engagement, and success

#### $^{4}$ What is Sociology? –an overview

#### **Q** Definition:

Sociology is the study of society, social behaviour, and the ways people interact with each other and with social institutions. It helps us understand how human actions are shaped by group life, and how group life is affected by individuals.

#### Key Concepts:

Term	Simple Definition	Everyday Example
Norms	Unwritten rules of behaviour in society	Queueing at a shop, saying "please" and "thank you"
Values	Ideas about what is right or wrong, important or worthwhile	Believing in fairness or hard work
Culture		British culture includes tea, humour, and sport
Socialisation	The process of learning the norms and values of your society	Learning table manners from your family



## Mini Quiz: Myth-Busting Sociology! True or False?

- 1. Sociology is just common sense.
- 2. Sociologists study only crime and deviance.

3. Socialisation only happens when you're a child.

4. Sociology helps you understand your own identity and behaviour.

5. Sociologists only work as teachers.

#### Summary:

Sociology is a powerful subject that reveals the hidden patterns of society. It helps explain everything from friendships and families to inequality and politics. By studying it, you'll become more aware of the world around you and more confident in analysing social issues.

(Answers: 1-False, 2-False, 3-False, 4-True, 5-False – sociologists work in government, research, charities, media, and more!)

#### **Themes in AQA Sociology**

Sociology helps us explore how society works, why people behave the way they do, and how power and inequality affect different groups. At A Level, everything you learn is connected by **three core themes**.

#### ✓ The Core Themes:

Theme	What It Means	
	How we learn society's norms and values, and how our identities are shaped by culture and upbringing.	
	How resources, status, and power are unequally distributed in society — across class, gender, ethnicity and age.	
	Different sociological perspectives (Marxism, Feminism, Functionalism etc.) and how sociologists collect data to study society.	

#### How Your Topics Link to the Themes

Year Group	Торіс	Links to Theme 1 (Culture/Identity)	Links to Theme 2 (Inequality)	Links to Theme 3 (Theories/Methods)
		How family socialises us / identity roles	Inequality in domestic labour, family policy	Sociological theories of the family / methods in context
	Education with Methods in Context	School as an agent of socialisation	Class, gender, ethnicity achievement gaps	Positivism, interpretivism, practical/ethical/theoretical issues
Year 13	Crime & Deviance	Peer groups, subcultures, labelling	Who commits crime and who is targeted by the justice system	Theories of crime, crime stats, practical research issues
	Media Media influence on identity and culture		Stereotypes, representation of minorities	Ownership, audience effects, media content analysis
	Theory & Methods (synoptic)	How identity/culture affects research	Researching inequality	Key sociological debates and methodological theory

#### **Q** 4: What Topics Will You Explore in A Level Sociology?

Sociology is a subject that helps you understand the world around you — from school life to crime, from media to families, from beliefs to identity.

#### Here's what we'll explore:

😵 Year 12 Topics (First Year)	😵 Year 13 Topics (Second Year)	
Education	K Crime and Deviance	
<ul> <li>Education         <ul> <li>Why do some students succeed more than others?</li> <li>What's really being taught in schools — and to whom?</li> <li>How do class, gender, and ethnicity affect achievement?</li> </ul> </li> <li>Families and Households         <ul> <li>Are families becoming more equal and diverse?</li> <li>What is childhood like today?</li> <li>How do different family types shape experiences?</li> </ul> </li> <li>Research Methods         <ul> <li>How do sociologists study society?</li> <li>What's the difference between questionnaires, interviews and observations?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Crime and Deviance</li> <li>Why do people commit crime?</li> <li>Who gets labelled as a criminal — and why?</li> <li>How is crime linked to inequality, identity, or power?</li> <li>Sociological Theory and Debates         <ul> <li>Do individuals shape society — or does society shape them?</li> <li>What do key perspectives (Marxism, Feminism, Functionalism, Postmodernism) say?</li> <li>How do sociologists debate values, evidence and truth?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
What makes research valid and reliable?	<ul> <li>How does the media influence how we see ourselves and others?</li> <li>Who controls what we see and hear?</li> <li>How are gender, ethnicity and class represented?</li> </ul>	

#### 5. Why This Matters: Intent, Outcomes & Your Journey into Sociology

#### **The Transition Tasks**

These transition tasks are designed to give you:

- A taste of what it's like to study A Level Sociology at CCCS.
- An early understanding of how sociologists explore the world around us.
- Confidence in discussing core ideas such as culture, identity, inequality, and social structures.
- Independent learning experience so you're ready for the demands of Year 12.

#### 

By completing these activities, you will:

- Understand what sociology is and how it differs from other subjects.
- Gain insight into key concepts like norms, values, socialisation, and social institutions.
- Learn to connect sociological thinking to real-world issues and your own life.
- Begin developing the skills needed for A Level success: reading critically, writing clearly, and thinking sociologically.

#### 🍸 Why This Matters

A Level Sociology is exciting, challenging, and deeply relevant to the world around you. These tasks are designed to help you:

- Q Build your sociological curiosity
- 💪 Practise clear, analytical writing
- $\bigcirc$  Explore real-life issues and debates
- 😔 Show that you are ready to start your journey as a Sociology student

A Level Sociology is more than just learning content – it's about becoming curious, critical, and compassionate. These tasks help prepare you for that exciting journey. They're not about being perfect – they're about getting started.

#### How the Tasks Work: Core – Extension – Stretch

In A Level Sociology, we don't just want you to understand society — we want you to **question** it, analyse it, and think for yourself.

To help you build these skills step by step, each transition task in this booklet is split into **three** levels of challenge:

Core	Learn the basics. Identify key ideas, describe clearly, and use simple examples. This is your foundation.	
© Extension	Go deeper. Explain causes, explore links between ideas, and start applying sociological terms and perspectives.	

Stretch	Think like a sociologist. Apply theory, use real examples or research, evaluate
_	strengths and weaknesses.

#### 💣 Your Goal

✓ Aim to complete all Core tasks, and as many Extension or Stretch parts as you can.

 $\checkmark$  The more you challenge yourself now, the more confident you'll feel in September.

#### **Student Tips for Stretching Yourself**

- Ask yourself *why* something is happening don't stop at *what*
- Try to use sociological language from the glossary
- Give real-life or current examples
- Challenge a common-sense idea using evidence or theory
- Try the Stretch even if you're unsure this is where real learning begins!

#### ✓ Transition Activities Success Criteria

🚖 Level	Description		
🚖 Emerging	Some tasks completed. Answers are brief or mostly descriptive. Limited use		
	of sociological language.		
**	Most Core tasks completed. Some explanations and relevant examples.		
Developing	Beginning to apply sociological terms.		
***	Core and Extension tasks completed. Clear, well-structured responses using		
Secure	relevant sociological concepts and examples.		
****	All levels (Core, Extension, Stretch) attempted. Insightful answers showing		
Mastery	theory use, curiosity, and strong independent thinking. Excellent preparation		
-	for A Level study.		

#### 

If you have any questions, email Mrs Sharmin at: nsh@cooperscoborn.co.uk

#### G: Sociology Starter Glossary

Term	Definition (Student-Friendly)	
Society	A group of people who live in a shared territory and follow common laws, norms,	
	and institutions.	
Culture	The ideas, beliefs, customs, and behaviours shared by a group — like tradition	
	food, and values.	
Norms	Rules of behaviour that are expected in society — e.g. saying "thank you" or	
	queuing politely.	
Values	Beliefs about what is right and wrong — e.g. fairness, respect, freedom.	
Socialisation	The process of learning norms and values — starts with family and continues	
	through life.	
Agents of	The people or groups who teach us how to behave — like family, school, media,	
Socialisation	religion.	
Inequality	When people have different access to resources, opportunities, or power based	
	on things like class, gender, or ethnicity.	
Social Structure	The organised pattern of relationships and institutions that make up society —	
	like education, family, and law.	
Identity	Y How we see ourselves and how others see us — shaped by things like culture	
-	gender, and ethnicity.	
Social Class		
	middle class.	
Stereotype	A simplified and often unfair assumption about a group of people — e.g. "all	
<i>/</i> 1	teenagers are lazy."	
<b>Gender</b> Socially constructed roles, behaviours, and expectations linked to being ma		
	female.	
Ethnicity	A group of people who share a common culture, heritage, language, or religion.	
Power	The ability to influence or control others — can be used by individuals, groups, or	
	institutions.	
Social Issue	A problem that affects individuals and society — like poverty, crime, or racism.	

Key terms you'll come across at the start of A Level Sociology

### **7. SECTION 1: WHAT IS SOCIOLOGY?**

#### **\*** Section Introduction

This section introduces you to the subject of Sociology. You'll explore how sociologists define society, how they understand the way people behave, and how they explain social change over time.

You'll begin to explore big questions like:

- What is society?
- How do we create social order?
- How has society changed?
- Why do sociologists study things others take for granted?

Every task includes:

- **© Core**: Build understanding
- **Extension**: Deepen thinking

### Success Criteria – Section 1 Assessment

\star Level	Description	
🚖 Emerging	Some tasks attempted. Descriptive responses with limited detail. Few examples or sociological terms used.	
★★ Developing	Most core tasks completed. Some explanation and examples given. Beginning to use sociological language.	
★★★ Secure	Core and extension tasks completed. Clear explanations, use of concepts, good examples.	
★★★★ Mastery	All levels completed across most tasks. Strong use of sociological terms, concepts, and thoughtful application. Shows critical thinking and readiness for A Level study.	

### Activity 1.1 – What is Sociology?

#### Core:

Use at least two different sources (e.g., video, website, book) to write your own definition of *Sociology*.

#### 🖄 My definition of Sociology:

#### **Extension**:

Find an academic definition of sociology and compare it to yours.

Academic definition:

□ Similarities or differences:

#### Stretch:

How is sociology different from Psychology or History?

### ? Activity 1.2 – True or False? Myths About Sociology

#### Core:

Tick True or False, then explain why.

Statement	True/False	My Reason
Sociology is easy		
It's mostly common sense		
It's only essays		
It's useful for all careers		
You contribute your own views		

#### **Extension:**

Pick two myths people often believe. Why might they think this? Why is it wrong?

#### Stretch:

What would a real sociologist (e.g., Tutor2U or The Sociology Teacher) say about one myth?

### Activity 1.3 – What Is a Society?

#### Core:

Write a definition of "society" in your own words.

#### **Extension**:

Find and compare two definitions from academic sources. How do they differ? Why might this matter?

#### Source 1

#### Stretch:

How might Functionalists and Marxists view society differently?

Functionalist		
Marxists		

### **X** Activity 1.4 – What Makes a Society?

#### Core:

List five things a deserted island would need to become a society.

1.	
2	
Ζ.	
3.	
4	
4.	
5	
э.	

#### Extension:

What function does each feature serve for individuals and society?

Feature	Function

#### Stretch:

Which sociological theory would most support the need for these features? Why?

# Activity 1.5 – What Do These Parts of Society Actually Do?

#### Core:

Pick 3 features from 1.4. What function do they perform?

Feature	Function

#### **Extension:**

What might happen if each one didn't exist?

#### Stretch:

Which theory (Functionalism/Marxism/Feminism) supports their importance most? Why?

### **S** Activity 1.6 – How Has Society Changed?

Type of Social Change	Example
Change in attitudes	
Change in actions	
Change in processes	
Change in structure	

#### **Extension**:

Pick one and explain the cause.

#### Stretch:

Has this change made society better or worse? Why?

### **D** Activity 1.7 – Social Change in Key Topics

Торіс	One way it's changed
Education	
Family	
Crime	
Media	

#### **Extension**:

Pick one change. What caused it?

#### Stretch:

How might sociologist research this? What method could they use?

### Activity 1.8 – Change in Society: Your Choice

Choose 5 aspects (e.g. fashion, family, politics, tech):

Aspect	How it changed

#### **Extension:**

Why did the change happen?

### Activity 1.9 – Explaining Social Change

Change Chosen	Possible Explanation

#### **Extension**:

Use a concept like globalisation or feminism to explain one change.

#### Stretch:

Design a mini study. Which method would you use to research one change and why?

# **\$3 8. SECTION 2: SOCIAL PROBLEMS VS SOCIOLOGICAL PROBLEMS**

#### **The Section Introduction**

In Sociology, we don't just ask *what* the problem is — we ask *why* it exists, *who* it affects, and *how* we can explain it. This section helps you understand the difference between:

- Social Problems things seen as harmful by the public or government (e.g. poverty, racism)
- Sociological Problems patterns or behaviours that sociologists want to explain (e.g. why men commit more crime)

You'll start thinking like a sociologist: questioning common-sense views, identifying causes, and linking social issues to theory and method.

### Success Criteria – Section 2 Assessment

🛧 Level	Description	
🚖 Emerging	Recognises basic differences between types of problems. Describes a few issues with examples.	
★ ★ Developing	Explains differences clearly. Can give examples and suggest possible causes. Beginning to use sociological terms.	
\star 🛧 🖈 Secure	★ Secure Uses clear examples, applies sociological concepts or perspectives. Understands different types of explanation.	
★★★★ Mastery	Evaluates causes, links issues to theory and method, shows independent research and sociological mindset.	

### **Q** Activity 2.1 – What's the Problem?

#### **Core Task – Understanding Social vs Sociological Problems**

Examples of Sociological Problems
e.g. Why some people obey laws

#### **Extension**:

Pick one example from each side. Explain why it fits the category.

#### Stretch:

How could a sociologist research your sociological problem?

### **!** Activity 2.2 – Common Sense vs Sociology

Statement	Why Might People Think It?	Why Might It Be Wrong?
"Girls are naturally better behaved."		
"Poor people just don't work hard."		
"Crime is caused by bad parenting."		

#### Extension:

Choose one example and explain how a sociologist would investigate it.

#### Stretch:

Which sociological theory (e.g. Feminism, Marxism) would disagree with this 'common sense' view? Why?

### Activity 2.3 – How Would a Sociologist Investigate This?

Pick a social issue from this list or your own:

• Gender pay gap

- Knife crime
- Bullying
- Social media and body image

#### Core:

What is the issue? Who does it affect?

#### Extension:

Which sociological question could you ask? E.g. "What are the causes of...?"

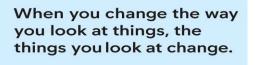
#### Stretch:

What research method would you use and why (e.g. interviews, stats)? What ethical issues might arise?

### 😼 Activity 2.4 – Sociology of Memes

#### Core:

Look at a meme





- What is the surface meaning?
- What issue does it hint at?

#### Extension:

What does the meme suggest about social norms or stereotypes?

Stretch:

Create your own meme about a social or sociological issue. Explain what you want it to show. Attach it here or draw it: 😰



Choose any current issue (e.g. racism, youth crime, cost of living).

Issue	How government/media/community tries to solve it	Did it work? Why or why not?

#### **Extension**:

What sociological theory could support or criticise the response?



Why might some policies fail to fix social problems? Use terms like inequality, power, or norms.

### Activity 2.6 – Current Social Issues

Choose **one** issue from the list below *or suggest your own*:

- AI and job security
- Mental health in schools
- Youth involvement in activism
- Cost of housing
- Knife crime
- Misinformation in media

#### Core:

Describe the issue. Who does it affect and how?

Extension:

What might have caused the issue to grow in 2024–2025?



Which sociological theory could help explain it (e.g. Functionalism, Marxism, Postmodernism)?

### Activity 2.7 – Positive Responses to Social Problems

Choose the same issue from **2.6** and reflect:

Type of Response	Example	How It Helped Society
Community action		
Government action		
Media response		

#### Extension:

How did this response reflect changing social values?

#### Stretch:

Could a sociologist study this response? What method would they use, and what challenges might arise?

### **9**. SECTION 3: Discovering A Level Sociology Topics

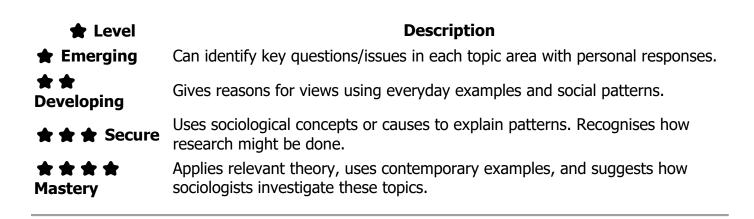
#### **The section Introduction**

AQA A Level Sociology includes fascinating topics that help us understand how society works — and sometimes doesn't. In this section, you'll explore five key themes from the course:

- 1. Education
- 2. Families and Households
- 3. Media
- 4. Crime and Deviance
- 5. Sociological Theories & Research Methods

Each activity introduces real-life issues, key questions, and sociological thinking. You'll be asked to form opinions, analyse causes, and consider how sociologists investigate these areas.

### Success Criteria – Section 3 Assessment



#### Activity 3.1 – Education: Who Succeeds and Why?

Task Level	Prompt
	Why do some students do better in school than others? What factors matter — ability, effort, family background?
Extension	Think about how class, gender or ethnicity might influence school achievement. Use examples you've seen/heard.
	What might a sociologist want to investigate here? Suggest a possible research question and method (e.g. interviews, stats).

#### Activity 3.2 – Family and Households: Are Families Changing?

Task Level	Prompt
	What types of families exist in today's society (e.g. nuclear, single-parent, blended)? Which do you see around you?
	How has family life changed over time? What causes these changes (e.g. laws, women's rights, economic pressures)?

Task Level	Prompt
	Choose a sociological view (Functionalist, Feminist, Postmodern) and briefly explain what they might say about the modern family.

#### Activity 3.3 – Media: How Does Media Influence Us?

Task Level	Prompt
Core	What media do you use every day? What are your main sources of news, trends or influence?
© Extension	Does media shape how people see others (e.g. gender, ethnicity, youth)? Give an example from social or traditional media.
Stretch	Sociologists debate whether audiences are passive or active. What do you think — does media control us or do we choose how to react?

#### Activity 3.4 – Crime and Deviance: Who Breaks the Rules?

Task Level	Prompt
Core	What types of behaviour are seen as criminal or deviant in society? What's the difference between the two?
© Extension	Do some groups get labelled more than others as criminal? Think about age, class, ethnicity or gender.
Stretch	Suggest one sociological explanation for crime (e.g. peer pressure, inequality, lack of opportunity). How could we study this?

#### Activity 3.5 – Sociological Theory: Why Do We Think Differently?

Task Level	Prompt
Core	Why do people have different views on the same issue (e.g. climate change, crime, poverty)?
Extension	Sociologists use perspectives like Marxism, Feminism or Functionalism to explain the world. Pick one and explain it in a sentence.
Stretch	Why is it useful to have more than one sociological theory? How do competing ideas help us understand society better?

### Activity 3.6 – Research Methods: How Do Sociologists Study Society?

Task Level	Prompt
Sore	What kinds of research methods might sociologists use (e.g. interviews, questionnaires, observation)?
© Extension	Which method would be best to study <i>school bullying</i> or <i>social media influence</i> ? Why?
	What makes a method ethical or unethical? How might research into crime or families be sensitive? Use the PET acronym: Practical, Ethical, Theoretical.

#### **Q** 10. Sociology in the Real World

Sociology doesn't just live in textbooks — it helps us understand what's happening around us, every day. Whether you're looking at the media, public protests, education, or politics, Sociology gives you the tools to analyse the world with confidence and clarity.

#### A Real Sociologists, Real Impact

Here are some examples of sociologists whose work has shaped how we understand society:

Sociologist	What They Did
Ann Oakley	One of the first feminist sociologists to study gender roles in the family and
	challenge male-dominated research.
Paul Willis	Studied working-class boys in school and explained how rebellion can reproduce
	social class inequality.
Stuart Hall	Analysed race, media, and power. Helped us understand how stereotypes are
	constructed and challenged.
Becky	Current head of the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF). Hired by the
Francis	government for her expertise in education and inequality.

#### Real-World Issues You've Probably Seen

Sociology helps us investigate and explain issues like:

- The Gender Pay Gap  $\rightarrow$  Families, Work, Feminism
- Institutional Racism in Policing → Crime, Power, Ethnicity
- Climate Protest Movements → Youth identity, Media, Social Change
- **Cost of Living Crisis** → Class inequality, Welfare policy
- Mental Health and Social Media → Culture, Identity, Technology

#### **†** Famous People with Sociology Backgrounds

You might be surprised at how many influential people studied Sociology:

#### ★ Famous People Who Studied Sociology

1 Name	🗰 Known For	How Sociology Helped
Michelle	Former First Lady of	Gained insight into race, class, and inequality —
Obama	the USA	foundations of her advocacy work.
Martin Luther	Civil Rights Leader	Applied sociological theory to understand and challenge
King Jr.		systemic racism.
Reggie Yates	Broadcaster &	Uses sociological thinking in documentaries on identity,
	Filmmaker	inequality, and culture.
Becky Francis	Education Policy	Sociologist influencing national education policy on social
	Leader	justice and attainment.
Karen Gillian	Actor (Doctor Who,	Studied sociology before drama; says it helps shape her
	Avengers)	portrayal of complex characters.
James Blunt	Musician & Lyricist	Sociology degree helped him reflect real human experiences
		in his song writing.
Jimmy Carr	Comedian	Studied Sociology and Political Science — uses critical
-		thinking and satire to challenge assumptions.

Sociology graduates go into: law, journalism, social work, government, education, activism, public health, research, and more.

#### Task: Match the Issue to the Topic

Draw lines between the social issues below and the A Level topic they best link to.

Issue	A Level Topic
Gender pay gap	Families / Feminism
Knife crime in inner cities	Crime and Deviance
Teen mental health crisis	Media / Education
Media bias and fake news	Media / Power / Postmodernism
Rising cohabitation	Families / Postmodernism

#### Optional Task: "Sociology in the News" Scrapbook

Choose one article, image, or news story that shows a social issue (printed or digital). Then answer:

- Q What sociological issue does this reflect?
- <sup>(G)</sup> What concept or theory could help explain it?
- III How might a sociologist research this?
- $\bigcirc$  Why does it matter today?

*Q* You could even create a mini display or scrapbook page to share in September!

#### The Potential Advantages of Sociology

Sociology helps you:

- Understand inequality and power in society
- Analyse real-world problems from multiple perspectives
- 🗹 Build skills in research, evaluation, and communication
- Secome a more informed, reflective, and active citizen
- Succeed in a range of careers that value critical thinking

Try:

- Following sociologists or education researchers on social media (e.g. Becky Francis, Diane Reay)
- Watching the news critically who benefits from the way stories are told?
- Reading a newspaper article and identifying sociological issues (gender, class, age, power, etc.)
- So Using any of the above to support your tasks? Write it down in the margin or reference it in your answers this shows independence and curiosity!

### **11. Exit Task: Reflecting on My Sociology Transition** Journey

Before you hand in your booklet, take a moment to reflect on what you've learned, discovered, and enjoyed.

#### **&** Reflective Questions:

- 1. What have I learned about Sociology that I didn't know before?  $\rightarrow$  (Write 2–3 bullet points)
- 2. Which topic or issue interested me the most and why?  $\rightarrow$  (E.g. education, family, media, crime, inequality...)
- 3. Which task did I enjoy or find most challenging? What did I learn from doing it? → (Reflect on Core, Extension or Stretch)

#### 4. What skills do I think I've started developing?

- □ Critical thinking
- □ Research and enquiry
- □ Explaining and analysing issues
- $\Box$  Applying theories or concepts
- □ Independent learning

#### 5. One question I still have about Sociology is...

 $\rightarrow$  (We'll explore it together in September!)

#### **\*** My A Level Sociology Goals

Set yourself two goals to focus on when you start the course:

#### $\Rightarrow$ Goal 1 (Knowledge or Topic):

I want to learn more about...

#### $\gg$ Goal 2 (Skill or Study Habit):

I want to improve at...

#### Final Thoughts:

Complete this sentence: "I'm choosing Sociology because..."

#### **Q** 12. Useful Resources to Support Your Transition Tasks

Here are some recommended places to explore Sociology topics further, find examples, and stretch your understanding.

#### Websites

Resource	What It's Good For
Tutor2U Sociology	
www.tutor2u.net/sociology	Revision notes, topic summaries, videos, and free quizzes. Ideal for beginners.
BBC Bitesize – GCSE & A Level	
Sociology	
www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize	Basic explanations of key topics, especially family, education, and research methods.
Sociology Revision –	
ReviseSociology.com	
www.revisesociology.com	More advanced detail on AQA topics, with examples, diagrams, and exam-style content.
The Sociology Show Podcast	
[Available on Spotify/Apple]	Interviews with real sociologists and student-friendly topic discussions. Great for listening on the go!

#### Videos & Channels

Channel	What to Watch
Tutor2U Sociology YouTube Channel	Short animated explainers on AQA topics (e.g. Functionalism, Families, Crime)
CrashCourse Sociology (YouTube)	U.S. based but helpful for explaining global concepts, theories, and methods
BBC iPlayer Documentaries	Watch shows like <i>Panorama, Louis Theroux</i> , or <i>Stacey Dooley</i> – perfect for linking Sociology to real life

#### Introductory Reading (Optional)

Title	Author	Why Read It?
Sociology: A Very Short Introduction	Steve	Quick, accessible, and student-friendly. Explains what
	Bruce	sociologists do and why.
Chavs: The Demonisation of the	Owen	A compelling book that explores inequality and media
Working Class	Jones	stereotypes.
There Ain't No Black in the Union Jack	Paul Gilroy	A key book on race, identity and postcolonial theory (more
		advanced).

### ☑ 13. Transition Task Completion Checklist

Tick off the tasks you complete below — aim to finish **all Core** and as many **Extension/Stretch** levels as you can!

Section	Task	Core	Extension	Stretch	Teacher Feedback
	Task 1.1 – What is Sociology?				
	Task 1.2 – True or False?				
	Task 1.3 – Myth-Busting Sociology				
	Task 1.4 – Institutions in Society				
	Task 1.5 – The Social Imagination				
	Task 1.6 – Social Structures				
	Task 1.7 – Norms, Values, Culture				
	Task 1.8 – What is Identity?				
	Task 1.9 – What is Inequality?				
2	Task 2.1 - Social vs Sociological Problems				
	Task 2.2 – Power & Privilege				
	Task 2.3 – Media and Social Judgements				
	Task 2.4 – Inequality in Everyday Life				
	Task 2.5 – Policy & Protest				
	Task 2.6 – Current Issue Investigation				

Section	Task	Core	Extension	Stretch	Teacher Feedback
	Task 2.7 – What's the Sociological Question?				
Section 3	Core Themes Mini Tasks				
	Real World Sociology Task -optional				
Final	Exit Reflection Task				