

Get Ready for Sociology

Subject mind-set and BIG picture thinking & links...

 **Duration: 4–6 weeks (flexible pacing)**

 **Purpose:**

- Introduce core sociological concepts and thinkers
- Develop critical thinking and essay-writing skills
- Encourage curiosity about society and social structures

Please explore the following tasks:

Compulsory tasks to complete

Part 1: What is Sociology?

Task: Write a 500-word introduction answering:

- What is sociology?
- How is it different from psychology or politics?
- Why is it important in today's world?

Resources:

- Tutor2U: What is Sociology?
- YouTube: "What is Sociology?" by CrashCourse

Part 2: Key Sociological Theories

Task: Create a comparison table for the following theories:

- Functionalism
- Marxism
- Feminism
- Interactionism

Include:

- Key beliefs
- Famous sociologists
- Strengths and criticisms

Extension: Choose one theory and create a mind map or infographic.

Part 3: Family & Households

Task: Research and write a short report (300–500 words) on:

- How has the structure of the family changed over the last 50 years?
- What are the reasons for these changes?

Optional: Interview a family member about their experience of family life growing up.

Part 4: Sociology in the News

Task: Find two recent news stories that relate to sociological themes (e.g. inequality, education, crime, gender, race).

- Summarise each story
- Explain how it links to a sociological issue

Part 5: Essay Practice

Task: Write a mini-essay (approx. 600 words) on:

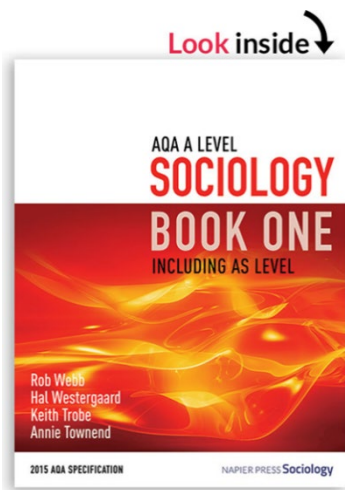
“The family is no longer the cornerstone of society.” Discuss.

Include:

- An introduction
- At least two different perspectives
- A conclusion with your opinion

Required text book

AQA A Level Sociology Book 1, Rob Webb et al. (2015)



AQA A Level Sociology Book 2 Rob Webb et al. (2016)

Recommended websites you should be familiar with

🌐 Recommended Websites for A Level Sociology

📖 1. Tutor2U Sociology

- Website: <https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology>
- Why use it: Excellent for revision notes, topic summaries, quizzes, and exam tips tailored to AQA and other exam boards.

🗣️ 2. ReviseSociology

- Website: <https://revisesociology.com>
- Why use it: In-depth blog-style posts on key topics, theory breakdowns, and exam advice. Great for deeper understanding.

📰 3. BBC News – Society Section

- Website: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>
- Why use it: Stay updated with real-world examples of sociological issues like inequality, education, crime, and family.

📖 4. British Sociological Association (BSA)

- Website: <https://www.britisoc.co.uk>
- Why use it: Offers insights into current sociological research and events. Good for enrichment and understanding sociology as a discipline.

📺 5. YouTube – Sociology Channels

- Channels to explore:
 - CrashCourse Sociology
 - Tutor2U Sociology
 - ReviseSociology

- **Why use them:** Visual explanations of complex theories and topics. Great for revision and engagement.

6. Office for National Statistics (ONS)

- **Website:** <https://www.ons.gov.uk>
- **Why use it:** Reliable data on UK society—useful for evidence in essays and understanding trends in family, education, crime, etc.

Related magazines, blogs subject experts

Magazines & Journals

1. Sociology Review (Hodder Education)

- **Why follow:** Tailored for A Level students with accessible articles, exam tips, and case studies.
- **Website:** <https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk>

2. New Internationalist

- **Why follow:** Covers global social justice issues—great for globalisation, inequality, and development topics.
- **Website:** <https://newint.org>

3. The Sociological Review

- **Why follow:** One of the oldest sociology journals—more academic, but useful for enrichment and deeper reading.
- **Website:** <https://www.thesociologicalreview.com>

Blogs & Online Resources

1. ReviseSociology Blog

- **Author:** Karl Thompson (A Level Sociology teacher)
- **Why follow:** Clear explanations of theories, exam advice, and topical blog posts.
- **Website:** <https://revisesociology.com>

2. Sociology Lens

- **Why follow:** Academic blog with commentary on current events from a sociological perspective.
- **Website:** <https://www.sociologylens.net>

3. Everyday Sociology Blog

- **Why follow:** Written by US-based sociologists, it connects everyday life to sociological theory.
- **Website:** <https://www.everydaysociologyblog.com>

Subject Experts to Follow

1. Dr. Louise Archer

- **Expertise:** Education, identity, and inequality
- **Affiliation:** UCL Institute of Education

2. Professor Bev Skeggs

- **Expertise:** Class, gender, and media
- **Affiliation:** London School of Economics

3. Dr. Kehinde Andrews

- **Expertise:** Race, decolonisation, and Black Studies
- **Affiliation:** Birmingham City University

Recommended books & revision guides

Optional Reading & Watching

- *Chavs* by Owen Jones
- *Watching the English* by Kate Fox
- Documentaries: *Panorama*, *Dispatches*, *The School That Tried to End Racism*

Possible virtual places to visit

1. Museum of London

Website: <https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk>

Why visit: Explore how London's social history has evolved—great for understanding urbanisation, migration, and class.

2. The Migration Museum

Website: <https://www.migrationmuseum.org>

Why visit: Offers virtual exhibitions on migration stories and identity—perfect for topics on ethnicity, culture, and globalisation.

3. British Library – Learning Resources

Website: <https://www.bl.uk/learning>

Why visit: Access digitised archives, social history collections, and resources on gender, class, and protest movements.

4. BFI (British Film Institute) – Free Archive

Website: <https://player.bfi.org.uk/free>

Why visit: Watch historical documentaries and films that reflect British society, culture, and social change.



5. Supreme Court of the UK – Virtual Tour

Website: <https://www.supremecourt.uk/visiting/virtual-tour.html>

Why visit: Understand how the legal system works—useful for crime and deviance topics.



6. Wellcome Collection

Website: <https://wellcomecollection.org>

Why visit: Explore exhibitions on health, the body, and society—great for linking sociology with science and ethics.

Teachers contact for questions and more information

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