

Year 11-12 Transition Work

Subject: Sociology



St Peter's
SIXTH FORM
Discover your potential

We're looking forward to welcoming you in September! Please note that this document has been created by staff to help you prepare to start your studies at sixth form. The work you produce from this will form the basis of a discussion in your first lessons with your teachers.

At the end of this document, there is a review grid for you to complete every time you engage with some preparatory reading this summer.

List of key topics you will study in Year 12:

Education

the role and functions of the education system, including its relationship to the economy and to class structure

- differential educational achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity in contemporary society
- relationships and processes within schools, with particular reference to teacher/pupil relationships, pupil identities and subcultures, the hidden curriculum, and the organisation of teaching and learning
- the significance of educational policies, including policies of selection, marketisation and privatisation, and policies to achieve greater equality of opportunity or outcome, for an understanding of the structure, role, impact and experience of and access to education; the impact of globalisation on educational policy.

Research Methods

- quantitative and qualitative methods of research; research design
- sources of data, including questionnaires, interviews, participant and non-participant observation, experiments, documents and official statistics
- the distinction between primary and secondary data, and between quantitative and qualitative data
- the relationship between positivism, interpretivism and sociological methods; the nature of 'social facts'
- the theoretical, practical and ethical considerations influencing choice of topic, choice of method(s) and the conduct of research.

Families and Households

- the relationship of the family to the social structure and social change, with particular reference to the economy and to state policies
- changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation, divorce, childbearing and the life course, including the sociology of personal life, and the diversity of contemporary family and household structures
- gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships within the family in contemporary society
- the nature of childhood, and changes in the status of children in the family and society
- demographic trends in the United Kingdom since 1900: birth rates, death rates, family size, life expectancy, ageing population, and migration and globalisation.

Theory and Methods

- quantitative and qualitative methods of research; research design
- sources of data, including questionnaires, interviews, participant and non-participant observation, experiments, documents and official statistics
- the distinction between primary and secondary data, and between quantitative and qualitative data
- the relationship between positivism, interpretivism and sociological methods; the nature of 'social facts'
- the theoretical, practical and ethical considerations influencing choice of topic, choice of method(s) and the conduct of research
- consensus, conflict, structural and social action theories
- the concepts of modernity and post-modernity in relation to sociological theory
- the nature of science and the extent to which Sociology can be regarded as scientific
- the relationship between theory and methods
- debates about subjectivity, objectivity and value freedom
- the relationship between Sociology and social policy.

Recommended research list:

1. This is the exam board we use:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192>

2. These are very useful websites for revision:

<https://www.hectic-teacher.co.uk/sociology-support>

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology>

3. This website is made by the British Sociological Association for A-level students:

<https://www.discoversociology.co.uk/>

4. These are free online sociology magazines:

<https://thesociologicalreview.org/>

<https://discoversociety.org/>

5. Thinking Allowed is a weekly podcast on Radio 4 about new research in sociology:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qy05>

6. Here are links to lots and lots of documentaries that are relevant to sociology:

<https://www.hectic-teacher.co.uk/sociology-support/documentaries>

7. BBC news about families and education:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education>

The Guardian news about families and education:

<https://www.theguardian.com/education> and

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/family>

Tasks

1. Find and read a news article about one of the topics you will study in Year 12, such as families or education. Then fill in a review grid about the article. You can find articles here:

<https://thesociologicalreview.org/>

<https://discoversociety.org/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education>

<https://www.theguardian.com/education>

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/family>

2. Listen to a podcast from Thinking Allowed and fill in a review grid.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qy05>

3. Watch a documentary from the hectic teacher website and fill in a review grid.

<https://www.hectic-teacher.co.uk/sociology-support/documentaries>

4. Watch a documentary about a different school and make a list of similarities and differences between that school and your school. This will be useful when we look at the processes in schools.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkg9K3qenc0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXvaGrZINI4>

REVIEW GRID

Name of podcast/article:

REWORD IT: Use this space to look up any words you don't know on an online dictionary/thesaurus

CRUNCH IT: Identify 6 keywords in this podcast/article/source. Say why you have picked these words.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

SUMMARISE IT

Summarise 3 key learning points or arguments in this podcast/article/source:

REVIEW IT:

Would you recommend this resource to another student?

Why/why not?

What was your key takeaway from this article?

What questions do you still have?

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