

Welcome to Sociology!

WIGSTON COLLEGE

A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY

**EVER WONDERED WHY
TRADITIONALLY GIRLS DO
BETTER AT SCHOOL THAN
BOYS?**

**Come & find out about A level
Sociology!**

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

PAPER ONE: EDUCATION & RESEARCH
METHODS

PAPER TWO: TOPICS IN SOCIOLOGY

PAPER THREE: CRIME & DEVIANCE WITH
THEORY & METHODS

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Welcome to Sociology!

Welcome to Sociology! This is an activity pack of things that you can do before you start the course in the autumn term. These tasks are aimed to support you in starting your Sociology A level. It contains one piece of work which needs to be completed and handed in during your first week at the college, the additional tasks are optional but recommended.

We follow the AQA examination board.

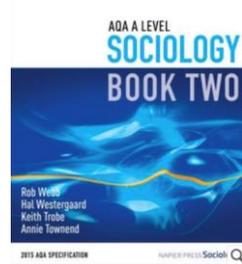
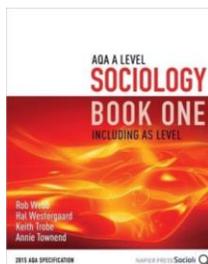
In year one you will study two units: 1) Sociology of Education and 2) Sociology of Families and Households. In year two you will study two units: 1) Sociology of Crime and Deviance and 2) Sociology of the Media.

You will also have an ongoing theme of sociological theory and methods running throughout both of the two years.

The course will be assessed at the end of the two years with three exams; Paper 1: Education and Theory and Methods, Paper 2: Families and Beliefs/Media and Paper 3: Crime and Deviance and Theory and Methods.

If you would like to purchase a textbook for year 1, we recommend the textbook, “AQA A level Sociology: Book One. Rob Webb, Hal Westergaard, Keith Trobe and Annie Townend”.

If you would like to purchase a textbook for year 2, we recommend the textbook, “AQA A level Sociology: Book Two. Rob Webb, Hal Westergaard, Keith Trobe and Annie Townend”.



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TRANSITION WORK: THIS NEEDS TO BE COMPLETED & BE HANDED IN TO YOUR TEACHER ON THE FIRST WEEK.

Outline and explain two ways in which your social class might affect your subject choice (10 marks)

This is an exam style question you could get on the education section on paper one. We know that you do not have the Sociological knowledge behind this question yet, but we would love to see what you think about this topic and how you would attempt to write a question like this. Good luck!

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OPTIONAL TASKS TO PREPARE YOU FOR A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY

TASK ONE:

One of the first things we would encourage you to do before starting in the autumn term is organise your folder with dividers labelled as below which you can file your class notes in to during the autumn term.

- 1) Introduction to Sociology.
- 2) Sociology of Education: Class differences in achievement (External factors)
- 3) Sociology of Education: Class differences in achievement (Internal factors)
- 4) Sociology of Education: Ethnic differences in achievement
- 5) Sociology of Education: Gender differences in education
- 6) Sociology of Education: The role of education in society.
- 7) Sociology of Education: Educational policy & inequality
- 8) Sociology of Education: Methods in context
- 9) Research methods: Experiments, Questionnaires, Interviews, Observation, Secondary sources
- 10) Sociology of Families & Households: Couples
- 11) Sociology of Families & Households: Childhood
- 12) Sociology of Families & Households: Theories of the family
- 13) Sociology of Families & Households: Demography
- 14) Sociology of Families & Households: Changing family patterns
- 15) Sociology of Families & Households: Family diversity
- 16) Sociology of Families & Households: Families and social policy.

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TASK TWO:

Before we start the course content properly, we will always start off finding out about some key underlying concepts that run throughout the A level Sociology course. You could research what all the below mean in relation to Sociology.

- Culture
- Norms
- Values
- Socialisation (Primary & Secondary)
- Status
- Role
- Nature vs Nurture debate
- Sanctions
- Social control (Which parts of society have this role?)
- Ascribed status
- Achieved status
- Structural view of society
- Social action view of society



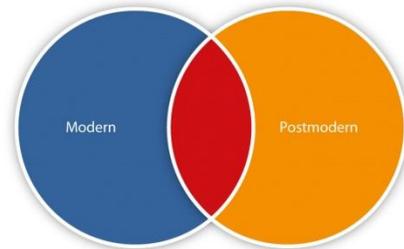
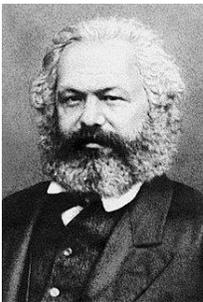
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TASK THREE:

In Sociology we spend a lot of time talking about different theories/perspectives and what they think of each topic we study. The theories all have different views on how society works, and why it works in the way that it does.

Find out about all of the below, what are their general views on society?

- Functionalists
- Marxists
- Feminists (Radical, Liberal, Marxists and difference)
- Postmodernists
- The New Right



TASK FOUR:

You could watch this clip which explains how Marxism thinks society does work/should work:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0GFSUu5UzA&t=52s>

Could you explain what the difference is between capitalism and communism?

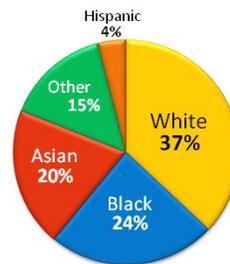
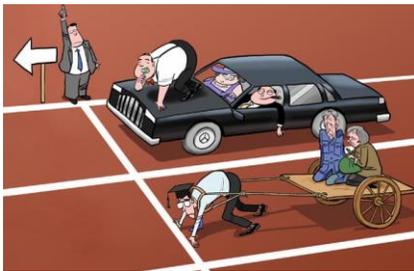
Could you explain what Marx says is the problem with capitalism?

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TASK FIVE:

In Sociology of Education you will learn about how differences between groups in society, have an impact on how well they do in school. You could research the groups below and see if any demographic stands out as doing better in school than others.

- Class
- Ethnicity
- Gender



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TASK SIX:

In Sociology of Families we need to look at a range of different family types. You could find out what all the below mean?

- Beanpole family
- Civil partnership
- Nuclear family
- Empty shell marriage
- Empty nest family
- Extended family
- Household
- Cohabiting couple
- Living apart together ('LATS')
- Single parent/Lone parent family
- Symmetrical family



TASK SEVEN:

You could watch the below clips to introduce yourself to key areas and concepts we may refer to in Sociology at A level.

Sociology of the family: Childhood- “Cheated of childhood”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xEBz9NPioe4>

Sociology of the family: Childhood- “Baby beauty queens”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I0keCRE3iik>

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Sociology (General): Social class- “Rich house, poor house”.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9p2Xp79_38Y

Sociology of Education: Class and education: “Rich kid, poor kid”.

<https://vimeo.com/81133029>

Sociology (General): Gender stereotypes “How stereotypes in TV shows and movies impact your child’s development”.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5NMkdBseE1g>

(Linked to above: Disney sexism and gender roles)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hh-xk0TFNM4>)

Sociology on Netflix:

“Explained” series- season 2: Cults (Sociology of Beliefs)

“Explained” series- season 1: Why women are paid less