

Preparation for Year 12 Sociology



Xaverian
College



A-Level Sociology (2021-2023)

Hello, and thank you for reading this booklet about what A-level Sociology is all about. If you are intrigued about the world around you, you want to know why you behave in the way that you do, and why society keeps on changing, then Sociology is the subject for you!

What is Sociology?

Please have a watch of the videos below for what this subject is all about:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnCJU6PaCio>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZYq_r4VXuA

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32KG_ba_NJc

Topics that are covered in year 12.

- Socialisation and Culture
- Families and Households
- Education
- Research Methods

What skills are useful for a Sociology student to have?

- An interest in people and the world around you.
- A love of reading and writing.
- To want to know why there are inequalities within society, and what possible solutions there are to overcome them.
- To enjoy watching TV programmes and documentaries which depict what life is like for different people, both in the UK and around the world.
- To have found similar subjects interesting at school e.g. History, Geography, Religious Studies, English, Citizenship, Health and Social Care, Travel and Tourism, Business.

In the next few pages are some tasks for you to complete at home. They will help you to understand what your lessons will be like for A-level Sociology at Xaverian College.

Education Topic Task

Read this article please:

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2017/nov/21/english-class-system-shaped-in-schools>

Now, on a separate piece of paper, make a list of the reasons why Professor Reay say that working-class children underachieve at school, and why middle-class pupils do better than them.

Social Inequalities Task

Please watch this YouTube video about homelessness in the UK:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_XBqGEZwpk

Now, on your piece of paper, answer the following questions please on this documentary:

What are the reasons for the people in the programme becoming homeless?

What problems do people face in their temporary accommodation?

How does homelessness impact on the people in the programme?

How do social organisations (e.g. housing associations) impact on the people in the video who are homeless?

What do you think could be done to change society so that people who are homeless can get permanent housing?

Research Methods Task

The last 18 months have been very challenging for everyone living in the UK, in terms of lockdown and the Covid-19 pandemic. There is a lot of sociological research currently going on about how people have experienced this period. Please could you do the following:

Make a mind map on how you felt during the 1st lockdown, what activities you did at home, and how you interacted with others e.g. your friends.

Make a second mind map about how you feel today now that society has partially reopened. What activities are you doing, how are you interacting with others, and what are you looking forward to doing over the summer.

Free Resources to Access to Gain More Knowledge on Sociological Ideas, Issues and Debates

- The Guardian newspaper section on society - <https://www.theguardian.com/society>
- The BBC News section on Families and Education - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education>
- The Revise Sociology website for both GCSE and A-levels - <https://revisesociology.com/>
- American Sociological Association - <https://www.asanet.org/>
- Understanding Society - <https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/>
- Real Stories YouTube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu4XcDBdnZkV6-5z2f16M0g>
- Real Crime YouTube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1s9576cQFdQq3QTtTxocmA>
- TedX Talks YouTube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/user/TEDxTalks>

