

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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This pack includes activities to help you prepare for your A Level course starting in the autumn. There are two tasks which you are required to complete and submit in your first week at college. The rest are optional but recommended to help you get off to a strong start.

We follow the AQA exam board. What you'll study

Year 1:

- Sociology of Education
- Sociology of Families and Households
- Theory & Methods

Year 2:

- Sociology of Crime and Deviance
- Sociology of the Media

Throughout both years, you will also study Sociological Theory and Methods.

Assessment: At the end of the course, you will take three exams:

- Paper 1: Education + Theory and Methods
- Paper 2: Families and Households / Media
- Paper 3: Crime and Deviance + Theory and Methods

This course will help you understand how society works and how people experience the world around

REVISION GUIDES

We recommend the **Tutor2u Sociology revision guides** to support your studies. Booklets are available for:

- Crime and Deviance
- Education
- Theory and Methods
- Families and Households
- Media

[Sociology Student Resources](#) | [Shop](#) | [Sociology](#) | [tutor2u](#)

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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. You may wish to have 2 folders – one for culture and one for education.

Education and Methods

- Introduction to Sociology.
- Theory & Methods: Theories in Sociology: Functionalism, Marxism, Feminism, Social Action theory & the modernity debate.
- Sociology of Education: Class differences in achievement
- Sociology of Education: Ethnic differences in achievement
- Sociology of Education: Gender differences in education
- Sociology of Education: The role of education in society.
- Sociology of Education: Educational policy & inequality
- Sociology of Education: Methods in context
- Research methods: Experiments, Questionnaires, Interviews, Observation, Secondary sources

Families and households

- Sociology of Families & Households: Demography
- Sociology of Families & Households: Changing family patterns
- Sociology of Families & Households: Family Diversity
- Sociology of Families & Households: Couples
- Sociology of Families & Households: Social Policy
- Sociology of Families & Households: Childhood
- Sociology of Families & Households: Theories of family
- Theory and methods: Social Policy
- Theory and methods: Should Sociology be considered a Science?
- Theory and methods: Value free debate

TASK TWO:

In Sociology, you will study different theories (perspectives). Each one has its own view on how society works and why.

Task: Research the following perspectives and summarise their general view of society:

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- Functionalism
- Marxism
- Feminism (Radical, Liberal, Marxist, and Difference)
- Postmodernism
- The New Right

Try to keep your notes clear and concise—focus on what each perspective believes about how society is organised and how it operates.

You could watch the videos on this link to help you :

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/collections/introduction-to-a-level-sociology>

TASK THREE -To be completed and handed in at the start of term in Y12.

In Sociology we look at educational policies and how education has changed over time. Please research this and create a document of no more than one side of A4 which explains how the education system in the UK has changed from 1870 onwards.

You should include key policies and explain what they did.

- The 1870 Education Act (Forster Act) – what it introduced and why it was important
- The move to compulsory and free education (1880s–1890s)
- The 1944 Education Act (Butler Act) – including the tripartite system and the 11+ exam
- The move to comprehensive schools (1960s–1970s) and why this was introduced
- The Education Reform Act (1988) – explain key changes such as:
 - National Curriculum
 - GCSEs
 - League tables
 - Marketisation (parental choice and competition between schools)
- The introduction of Ofsted – what it does and why it was created
- More recent policies of education.

TASK FOUR: To be completed and handed in at the start of term in Y12.

Create a timeline from 1900 to the present day showing key changes in family life in the UK. You should include major social changes and policies that have affected families over time.

You must include:

- Changes in divorce laws
- The increase of women entering the workforce
- The legalisation of same-sex marriage

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- The decline in marriage rates
- The rise of cohabitation (living together without marriage)

For each please create a short explanation of the change or law, why it happened (e.g. social attitudes, economic changes, equality movements) and the impact on families (how it changed family life, structure, or relationships)

TASK FIVE: Social Media & Childhood

In Sociology of the media and Sociology of families, we study how childhood is shaped by social changes such as the rise of social media. Do some independent research and write one well-developed paragraph answering the question:

- “Social media has improved childhood more than it has damaged it.”

Your paragraph must:

- Show both sides of the argument (advantages and disadvantages of social media)
- Use sociological ideas or examples where possible (e.g. mental health, communication, identity, cyberbullying)
- Reach a clear overall judgement on whether you agree or disagree with the statement

IF YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

Please email one of the department below:

Teacher of Sociology Miss S Sheffield: ssheffield@wigstonmat.org

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