Welcome to A-level Sociology 2026

We follow the AQA specification, and study the following topics:

- Education
- Families
- Beliefs in Society
- Crime and deviance
- Theory and Methods

These are divided into three papers, which are each 2-hour examinations and make up 100% of your final grades. You can find the specification here. You will also need to buy a copy of the course textbook - **AQA A Level Sociology Book One**, by Webb et al https://amzn.to/3iR9GMd

Bridging Work

Total time: approx. 2–3 hours

This work is designed to introduce you to key ideas we will study in Year 12 and help you begin thinking like a sociologist. It is not formally assessed, but we may refer to it in lessons in September.

Task 1: Key Concepts (25–30 mins)

Using the Webb textbook, or the Sociology Tutor2U website, write definitions for the following terms:

1. Sociology
2. Social institutions
3. Norms
4. Values
5. Primary socialisation
6. Secondary socialisation
7. Social control

Try to: Put definitions in your own words. Include one simple example for at least 2 terms

Task 2: Sociological Perspectives (30–40 mins)

Sociologists have different ways of explaining society. Using the information linked here, complete the table below:

Perspective	Key idea	View of society	One key concept
Functionalism			
Marxism			
Feminism			
Social Action Theories			

Task 3: Inequality in Education (60–75 mins)

Read/listen to the resources linked below, then write a short response (300–400 words max): *Why might education in Britain not be fair?* Try to include:

- 2–3 clear reasons (e.g. class, gender, ethnicity)
- At least one example from the resources
- A short conclusion

https://www.spreaker.com/user/thesociologyshow/prof-cecile-wright

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

Task 4: Thinking Like a Sociologist (15–20 mins)

Write a short response (150–200 words) to the following question: What do *you* think is the biggest cause of inequality in society?

Optional Extension (not included in time): If you are interested, you may explore a sociology-themed documentary, podcast or book from the recommended list

Documentaries / TV

1. When They See Us (Netflix) - crime and deviance; racism; power and inequality
2. The Secret Life of 5 Year Olds (Channel 4) - socialisation; social norms; early development

Books

1. Chavs: The Demonisation of the Working Class – Owen Jones - class inequality; media; education
2. Invisible Women – Caroline Criado Perez - gender inequality; structural bias; feminism

Podcasts

1. The Sociology Show
2. The Armchair Sociologist