A-Level Sociology

Year 12 induction

MISS BIRD, MRS LIVINGS & MS RAWDIN

2020-2022

Course information

- Exam board: **AQA**
- Sociology is a **social science.**
- There is no coursework.
- Miss Bird, Mrs Livings, and Ms Rawdin.
- You will have 8/9 x hour lessons every fortnight.
- Regular internal assessments and mock exams over 2-year course.
- 3 A-Level exams in May/June 2022.

The final A-Level exams

- Two-year (linear) A-Level course
- 3 exams at the end of two years of study (May/June 2022)

1. Paper 1 – 2 hours – Education with Theory and Methods – 80 marks.
2. Paper 2 – 2 hours – Families and Households; Beliefs in Society – 80 marks.
3. Paper 3 – 2 hours – Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods – 80 marks.

*If you want to resit any of the 3 exam papers you have to resit **ALL** 3 of them the following year and you do not keep the 'best' mark.*

Exam Qs?

- Short answer.
- Item questions.
- 10 markers.
- Essay questions *(20/30 markers)*.

1. A01 – description
2. A02 – application – item Qs.
3. A03 – evaluation

<u>Don't worry – we do lots of practice!</u>

Our expectations

- We, as your teachers, are 100% committed to helping you achieve your full potential – we expect you to show this same level of dedication too.
- You should come prepared to lessons having done the set prep notes/ homework/ wider reading, AND have all of the necessary equipment.
- **PREP NOTES: we expect you to read and make notes on each chapter of the topic before we teach it in lesson. The notes are done in exercise books provided by us ☺**
- Open door policy – we are here to help and support you as and when you need it. Extra 1:1 support and small group revision sessions will be available all year round at lunchtime and after-school.
- Be punctual, polite, kind, respectful, and enthusiastic.
- At times, this can be a sensitive subject – please be mindful of others around you and respectful of different views. **Be kind! ☺**

What will you need?

- AQA Textbook.
- A4 folder with dividers and plastic wallets.
- Pens, ruler, highlighters.
- An interest in the subject.

- **Textbooks are approx. £26 – try EBay, Amazon, Waterstones.**
- *If you are studying Psychology too we will provide you with a Sociology textbook to borrow.*

Three key perspectives

Functionalism

Marxism

Feminism

Download the worksheet from the files section of the channel titled 'The main perspectives in sociology – worksheet.' Print it if you can. If not used lined paper.

Functionalism

- Key sociologists: Talcott Parsons, Emile Durkheim.
- **Consensus** theory: society is structured in a way that encourages agreement and harmony amongst its members; everyone shares the same values and this helps us all to get along.
- Society is made of many different parts (institutions): family (primary socialisation), education (secondary socialisation), religion, criminal justice system, and the government (state).
- Each institution has a particular job and encourages cohesion due to shared norms, values and beliefs of all members.
- Provides a sense of solidarity and interconnectedness.

Marxism

- Key sociologist: Karl Marx.
- **Conflict** theory: there is a divide in society between the social classes *i.e. the rich and the poor.*
- Argued society is divided into two: -

1) **Minority capitalist class:** own the means of production such as the factories, raw materials and land.
2) **Majority working class:** own nothing but their own labour which they have to sell to the rich in order to survive.

- So basically…the rich exploit/take advantage of the poor.
- Eventually the poor will realise this and will overthrow the rich resulting in an equal, classless society = revolution = communist society.
- Argue that institutions like religion help to keep this divide.

Feminism

- **<u>Conflict</u>** theory: there is a divide in society between the genders *i.e. men and women.*
- See society and its institutions *(e.g. religion)* as male-dominated or *patriarchal (a system of society controlled by men).*
- Believe society operates to meet the needs/wishes of men and women are 'second-class citizens' and are therefore oppressed.
- *E.g. see the institution of the family as unequal and oppressive (unfair) with women doing most of the housework and childcare.*
- A 'first wave' of feminism appeared in the late 19th century with the suffragettes' campaign for the right to vote – <u>feminists fight for equality.</u>

TASK: PAPERCHAIN

- ***What do you need?*** A3 paper, pencil, scissors, colours.
- Make a paper chain of 3.
- Represent the key ideas of the 3 perspectives in sociology; one on each person.

TASK TIME: 10 minutes.

Topics we study…

- Families and Households.
- Education.
- Research Methods.

- Beliefs in society (religion).
- Crime and Deviance.
- Theories and Methods.

Coronavirus Pandemic

- Over the last 8 months the world has been coping with the Covid-19 pandemic.
- In Sociology we study a chapter on Demography – focusing on the UK population.

How do you think the recent pandemic might impact on: -

- Birth rate in the UK?
- Death rate in the UK?
- Migration = the movement of people in and out of the UK?
- Institutions in society e.g. NHS? Education? Prisons?

5 minutes – Jot down some ideas on paper ☺ then discussion ☺

Summer tasks ☺

- **Due 1st lesson back in September ☺**

1. Research and make notes on the trend in divorce rate in the UK. Why has the divorce rate increased over time? What laws came into action in 1923, 1949, 1969 and 2019? Why has the divorce rate recently started to decline?

2. Research and make notes on the following types of research: laboratory experiment, field experiment, observations, questionnaires, interviews, official statistics and documents. What are these? *Just a description of each is needed. You can do this in a summary table if you prefer.*

3. Watch this 15-minute YouTube clip on 'Poor Kids': https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8BN7ml6b-e4 What do you think are the barriers to these children doing well in school? Write a paragraph on each child 1) Girl from Bradford, 2) Boy from Leicester, and 3) Girl from Glasgow. How do you think the recent pandemic will impact on the learning of poor/disadvantaged children in our society?