

# Sociology

To prepare effectively for Sociology, it is suggested you work through the below tasks and bring these with you for your first day at Bilton 6th form.

**Please note you will sit a baseline assessment related to the materials below when you commence 6th form.**

## Task 1: Society

The social world is changing. Some argue it is growing; others say it is shrinking. The important point to grasp is: society does not remain static over time; it constantly changes – through decades, centuries; and across countries, societies. Answer the following questions:

Give 3 different ways society has changed over the last 100yrs – think about the different areas of social life and work.

Why has society changed? Why are societies different?

Research the 3 main political parties – Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat: What are their main ideas? How are they different?

If you were in power, what would your first four items be on your agenda? What would you hope to do?

<https://www.parliament.uk/about/mps-and-lords/members/parties/>

<http://simplepolitics.co.uk/questions-and-answers/who-are-the-parties-and-what-do-they-stand-for>

## Task 2: What is sociology?

Watch the video clip on YouTube: What is Sociology? Crash Course Sociology <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnCJU6PaCio> and make notes on what you understand about Sociology.

Find the definitions for the following key sociological terms:

Socialisation (primary socialisation and secondary socialisation)

Norms                      Ethnicity

Values

Beliefs

Culture

Social Class

Gender

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## Task 3— Sociological Theory

A theory, for our purpose, is something that explains the relationship between two or more things. A perspective can be defined as a way of looking at and seeing something. To have a perspective, therefore, means to look at something (whatever that thing might be) in a particular way. When we talk about the sociological perspective, therefore, we are talking about the particular way those sociologists, as opposed to non-sociologists to try to understand human social behaviour.

Use the internet to find out about the main sociological theories. For each one explain the main idea and concepts and the key sociologists:

Functionalism

Marxism

Feminism

Action Theories

Postmodernism

Which sociological perspective do you agree with? Why?

The YouTube channel below is good for summaries of the main theories:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuuaLjXtMJ-AfB\\_7J1538YKWkZAnGA](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuuaLjXtMJ-AfB_7J1538YKWkZAnGA)

<https://revisesociology.com/sociology-theories-a-level/>

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## Task 4 — Education

Research the History of Education in the UK and answer the following questions:

When did education become compulsory in the UK?

Prior to compulsory education, what were the differences in who used to receive schooling?

What are the oldest and newest subjects?

How have the methods of dealing with behaviour changed over time?

What are some of the major changes that have taken place in UK education in the 20th and 21st centuries?

Consider the impact of the following policies:

Education Act 1944 (Tripartite System)

Comprehensives 1966

Education Reform Act 1988

Your personal view on – what is the role and purpose of education?

<https://www.schoolsmith.co.uk/history-of-education/>

<https://getrevising.co.uk/revision-notes/social-policy-and-education>

## Task 5: Education and Families in the media

Find the definition of meritocracy.

Read the following news article <https://www.tes.com/news/few-one-20-born-poorest-areas-go-university> and answer the following questions:

Does this article suggest we live in a meritocracy?

Why is it important that 'poor' students go to university?

Read this article on 'The Lost Boys': <https://www.newstatesman.com/politics/education/2016/09/lost-boys-how-white-working-class-got-left-behind> and create a table of all the reasons why white working class boys are failing at school. One column should be headed 'factors inside school' (e.g. interactions with teachers, peer group etc) and the other 'factors outside school' (e.g. poverty at home, wider community).

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## Task 6 — Families and Households

Find the definitions for the following key family terms:

Monogamy

Bigamy

Polygamy

Maternal

Nuclear family

Empty nest

Empty shell marriage

Extended family

Kinship

Cohabitation

Research the changing family in the UK and answer the following questions:

How has the family structure changed over the past 100 years?

How have the following policies affected the family?

The Divorce Act 1969 and 1984

The Paternity Act 2010

The Civil partnerships Act 2004 and the Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Act 2013

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zj8qn39/revision/2>

<https://revisesociology.com/2015/12/17/social-policy-family/>

# Sociology

Other sources of information/ways to develop you sociological understanding of local, regional, national and global issues:

BBC News

'Thinking aloud' Radio 4 podcast

Twitter #sociology

Panorama

Read a range of different newspapers

Social media

The Independent

The Guardian—Education and Society pages

Extra reading:

Gang Leader for a Day by Sudhir Venkatesh

Watching the English: The Hidden Rules of English Behaviour by Kate Fox

Chavs: The Demonization of the Working Class by Owen Jones

Animal Farm by George Orwell

Lord of the Flies by William Golding

We Should All Be Feminists by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

If you have any questions please email me:

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