



Sturminster Newton High School

Sixth Form

Sociology

Independent Study Guide

My students often ask me, 'What is sociology?' And I tell them, 'It's the study of the way in which human beings are shaped by things that they don't see.' Sam Richards

Sociology is about society – how it changes structure; what influences there are in society and how understanding it can impact the future.

Course details:

AQA A Level Sociology (7192). We study 4 topics in this course:

Paper 1 – Education with Theory and Methods

Paper 2 – Families & Households/ Beliefs in Society

Paper 3 – Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

Each exam paper is marked out of 80 and lasts 2 hours. There is no coursework element.

All exams require extended written responses referring to the key words and theory within the specific question, showing clear understanding of sociological theories and their key sociologists. Secure English skills are essential to being able to write acceptable responses in Sociology.

By end of Year 12, you will sit exam questions based on the topics you have covered so far.

Year 13 Mock exams will be based on actual exam past papers and cover all topics in the course.

Key resources:

Two textbooks are provided for use during the course. These have been written by the specialists from the exam board and contain the majority of the course content.

CGP produce a revision guide 'A Level Sociology AQA Year 1 & 2 Complete Revision and Practice', which is highly recommended for students, especially in their second year.

Current news stories – especially stories related to politics, crime or local community.

Useful websites:

www.sociology.org.uk

www.revisesociology.com

www.bbc.com/bitesize/Sociology (a GCSE website but useful for gaining basic knowledge of key concepts that are built upon in lessons)

Key learning strategies:

Kind maps linking concepts, content and theories.

Revision cards – develop these as you progress through each topic.

Practice exam questions – to understand key words and context being asked in each topic.

Note taking – find a way that you can sustain. Most students use class book or file paper to make notes on. Also happy for students to use laptops too.

Key strategy is to identify and learn key sociologists/sociological theories for each topic studied.

Additional support:

Miss Allen is the specialist teacher and always happy to help and support in any way she can but also consider other school staff, family members or your local community to get a variety of views that can broaden your understanding.

What to do if you are stuck:

Come and talk through your concerns with your Sociology teacher or your Sixth Form tutor. Do not sit in silence and worry about things. There is always a solution if you ask for support.

Things to do in study time:

- Ensure topic notes are up-to-date as you will not have time to complete them in lessons.
- Practice exam style questions so you become familiar with the phrasing and expectations of the exam board.
- Read about societies in differing countries or cultures to broaden your knowledge base.

Top tips:

- Keep up-to-date with work as it can quickly overwhelm you if you fall behind.

- Keep your eyes and ears open – news stories, current affairs, opinions from family members/local community. To have examples from the real world you live in as well as those that appear in textbooks can add an additional element to the quality of your exam answers.
- Keep in touch with your subject teacher – e-mail if you are not in lessons so you can catch up on work you have missed.