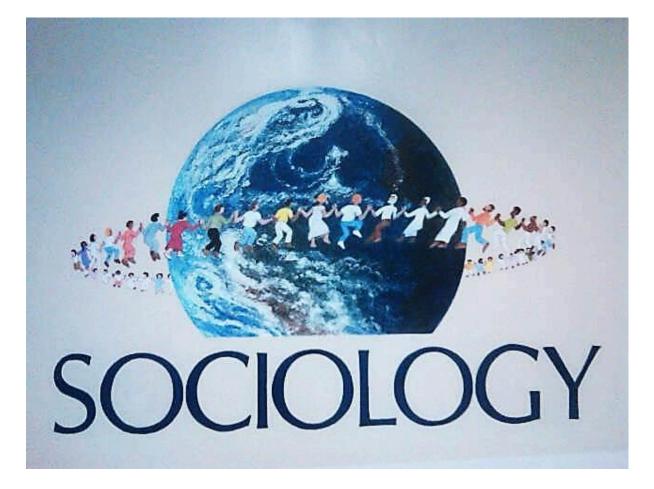
A Level Sociology Transition Pack 2024-25



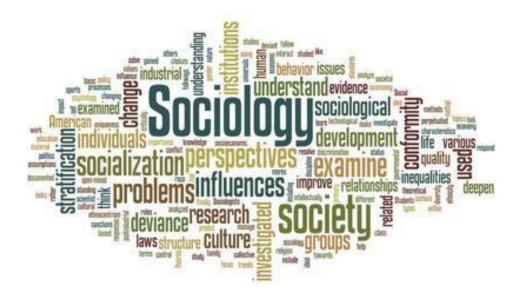
Introduction

Welcome to Sociology at Rednock. One of the first questions students ask about Sociology is: 'What is it?'

Sociology involves the systematic study and explanation of human social life, groups and societies. Sociologists aim to investigate and understand the social world and human behaviour within it. They are particularly interested in understanding the **ways in which society influences us and shapes our lives**. In studying contemporary British society, we will examine the main institutions and groups such as families, schools and the workplace. Other areas of interest are crime and deviance and the impact of the digital social world. Social processes such as socialisation, discrimination and social change will also be investigated. We will explore ranking within society and the impact of social class, gender, ethnicity and age on the opportunities open to individuals and groups.

Sociologists are interested in asking questions such as:

- What are teenage girls' future ideas about work and marriage?
- Is there a typical family structure in the UK? Does it matter if there isn't?
- How can we make sense of teenage drug dealers/gangs/subcultures?
- What is globalisation?
- What is the impact of social media on people's identities and relationships?
- Does your age, class, gender or ethnicity affect your chances in life?
- How does society view disability and what is the impact on the disabled?



Reading

You need to have a good understanding of what is going on in British society. Watching or listening to the news is a good place to start. It is recommended that you read a **minimum** of **two of articles a week** (either in the paper or online) from any of the following:

- BBC News <u>Home BBC News</u>
- The Guardian Latest news, sport and opinion from the Guardian
- The Times <u>The Times</u>
- The Telegraph <u>The Telegraph</u>

Task:

Read at least one news article you think is relevant to Sociology (based on what you have learned already). Make a note of which one you read, a summary of the content and what you thought about the issues discussed in the article. You should write about half a page of A4.

Things to watch

We hope you've chosen Sociology because you're interested in cultures and behaviours. Documentaries such as some of these below address many of the issues and concepts we will study as sociologists.

The Met - BBC iPlayer

Parole - BBC iPlayer

<u>BBC iPlayer - Documentaries</u> (check the topics we study and see which ones you think would be relevant to Sociology - there are lots) Please check suitability before watching though as some of them contain adult themes.

• A Brief Introduction to Marxism This is really useful to help you start to think about how society is structured and why not everyone agrees about whether that's the right way to do it.

Tasks:

- 1. Watch the following video What Is Sociology?: Crash Course Sociology #1 and write a one paragraph answer to the question: What is Sociology?
- 2. Watch at least one of the suggested videos above and write a one paragraph summary which answers the following questions:

What was it about?

What did you learn that you didn't already know?

Was there anything you agreed with in the video?

Was there anything you disagreed with in the video?

How do you think it links to the study of Sociology?

<u>The Sociology Review</u> – there are copies of this in the LRC. You should be reading it on a regular basis. It can also be accessed online via- School website- Student-Learning Resource Centre-Hodder Review Magazines. You can log in using Google and then search for topics or just choose 'Browse Magazines' and pick the Sociology Review.

Task: Choose one article you find interesting and write a one paragraph summary of the article.

Course textbooks and revision books

There are copies for reference in the LRC and we have class copies. If you would like to buy your own the details are:

Publisher: Hodder Education (28 Aug. 2015)

ISBN-13: 978-1471839481

There are a number of different revision books and you may wish to discuss this with your teachers before buying one.

Suggested Reading list

This is not a compulsory reading list, but reading any of these books will fulfil the 'Wider Reading' requirement for your enrichment programme.

Chavs: The demonization of the working class by Owen Jones

Watching the English by Kate Fox

Living Dolls: The Return of Sexism by Natasha Walter

The New Feminism by Natasha Walter

A Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood

What do you need to do for September:

- Buy a folder a big one!
- Buy an A4 pad of lined paper
- Get some dividers for your folder
- Make sure you have a highlighter or two
- Complete the tasks highlighted in yellow in this booklet



