



# A Level Sociology Transition Pack

## Sociology A Level @ St Peters

Have you ever wondered why boys don't achieve as highly as girls at school? Or why young people appear to commit more crime than older people? Do you want to find out about how society is constructed and how this affects families and us? Sociology is the A Level course that will help you to explore these ideas and much more.

Sociology offers you the opportunity to look at the world in a alternative manner, and explore ideas and areas that you have not been able through your GCSE studies. Sociology is a rigorous academic subject that is also rooted in the real world. Studying Sociology A-level enables you to develop critical thinking skills, to analyse and interpret the world around you.

### How will you be externally assessed?

#### A Level

##### **Paper one: Education with Theory and Methods**

Topics include the role and function of education, the effects it has on different social classes, ethnicities and genders.

**Assessment:** 2 hour written exam (33.3% of A-level)

##### **Questions**

Education: short answer and extended writing, 50 marks

Methods in Context: extended writing, 20 marks

Theory and Methods: extended writing, 10 marks

##### **Paper two: Topics in Sociology**

**Assessment:** 2 hour written exam (33.3% of A-level)

##### **Section A - Families and Households**

Topics include changing patterns of marriage, divorce and childbearing, gender roles and domestic division of labour and the changing nature of childhood.

Extended writing (3 questions) - 40 marks

### **Section B - Beliefs in Society**

Topics include ideology, science and religion; religious organisations, cults and sects, New Age movements and secularisation.

Extended writing (3 questions) - 40 marks

### **Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods**

Topics include crime, deviance and social control, the social distribution of crime by gender, ethnicity and age, globalisation of crime, suicide and crime prevention and punishment.

**Assessment:** 2 hour written exam (33.3% of A-level)

### **Questions**

Crime and Deviance: short answer and extended writing, 50 marks

Theory and Methods: extended writing, 30 marks

### **How will I be assessed throughout the year?**

You will be assessed throughout the year through a combination of in class and homework activities. You will receive regular exam style assignments/essays to complete, which will focus on developing the skills which you need to succeed in the exams. Some of these tasks will be completed as homework and some will be completed during timed conditions in class. You will complete an essay every two weeks. You will also complete mock exams at 2 points within the year.

### **Contact details:**

Please contact Mrs Bowater for any additional information or help  
[ebowater@stpetershunton.org](mailto:ebowater@stpetershunton.org)

### **Task 1:**

**Over the two year Sociology course we will be studying 4 main topics:**

1. Families and households
2. Education
3. Crime and Deviance
4. Beliefs in Society

**Read a newspaper regularly** over the holidays - preferably a broadsheet newspaper e.g. The Guardian, Daily Telegraph, The Times. If your family does not regularly buy a newspaper, ask someone who does to save there's for you. You do not need to read them on the day they are printed. If you cannot do this have a look at news articles online (BBC News).

Cut out /print articles relevant to the Sociological topics we will be studying - Family, Education, Crime and Beliefs in Society.

These are topics that are often written about in the press e.g. research about the changing roles of men and women in family life, the cost of childcare for working families, childhood obesity and reasons for it, lack of money in education, debates about types of schools - grammar schools vs comprehensives, crime statistics, rising violence in prisons, changing attitudes to religion in society and so on - these are just a few

EXAMPLES of the sorts of articles you might find.

Aim to collect AT LEAST one article relevant to each topic (4 in total).

Bring these with you to your first Sociology lesson. Be prepared to talk about what you have read.

### **Task 2: Families and Households**

**Please carry out some of your own research.** Use the questions below to initiate mini-interviews with family members and friends. Note down their answers to the questions and bring these with you to the first Sociology lesson of the academic year. You will get particularly interesting answers from the older generation. If you have grandparents who live a distance away, take the time to write to them and ask them if they could respond to the questions in writing. You need to interview at least 4 adults.

Questions to ask:

1. How would you define the term 'family'?
2. What is the point of a family? What functions does it perform?
3. What makes a 'good' family?
4. Is marriage important? Give reasons for your answer.

5. Are men and women's roles in the home equal? Should they be? If not, why not?
6. How has childhood changed in the last 20, 50 and 100 years?
7. How might you argue childhood has changed for the better/worse?
8. What does the government do to support families?

### Task 3: The Bomb Shelter

The worst has happened! A nuclear war is imminent! You are in Huntingdon's bomb shelter with 14 other people who were nearby when the siren sounded. There is only enough food for eight people (regardless of their age and including you!), therefore 7 people have to go outside to face an uncertain future.

You have been choose to make the decision about who is to leave and who should stay. Below is a list of occupants and information about them.

	Occupation	Sex	Age
1	Computer programmer	Male	37
2	Baby	Female	6 months
3	Farmer	male	45
4	MP	Male	40
5	Teenager still at school	Male	14
6	Vicar	Male	67
7	Suspected terrorist	Female	30
8	Teacher	Female	30
9	International footballer	Male	22
10	Housewife	Female	25
11	Her Husband	Male	27
12	Laboratory Technician	Male	50
13	Schoolgirl	Female	8
14	Famous author	Male	56

Choose who you would like to save and answer the questions to justify your decision.

- a) Why have you chosen certain people and not others?

- b) Are any of your decisions controversial? Why?
- c) Do any of your decisions break cultural norms? Think about people who are normally valued in society.
- d) Why do you think that some people are seen to be worth more than others?
- e) What are your future plans for the bomb shelter? How might you organise your new society?