

## Summer Work and Transition Materials for A-Level Sociology

The tasks and ideas below will help to prepare you for the most effective start to your A-Level Sociology course as part of your time in Sixth Form. If you would like to read about the specific course, we study the AQA A-Level qualification and information can be found on their [website](#).

- 1) Think about your own interests in terms of music, film, TV and other forms of media. Many of the most popular examples of these forms of media relate to Sociology. Anything that you might have heard or watched that relates to areas such as Crime and Deviance or Education are very sociological. Look at the collage of images below and then think about any specific interests that you have which might have sociological relevance.



- 2) Now is also a fantastic time to start following the news regularly. In your lessons you will be regularly given examples of relevant news articles to read which can be used in your essay answers but knowing as much as possible about current affairs is a fantastic way to get a head start. Downloading an app such as the BBC News app gives you a really easy accessible way to engage with important news stories.

Look out for stories on the topics listed below:

- Migration to the UK
- Educational achievement at GCSE
- Women's rights and independence
- Changes to childhood
- The impact of technology on society
- Representations of class, gender and ethnicity in the media

There is a short list below of recommended additional reading that you could complete. This will help to broaden your 'sociological understanding' and help you to get into the type of analytical thinking required for a good grade in Sociology.

- George Orwell – 1984

"1984, by George Orwell, published in 1949. It follows the life of Winston Smith, a low ranking member of 'the Party', who is frustrated by the omnipresent eyes of the party, and its ominous ruler Big Brother. 'Big Brother' controls every aspect of people's lives."

- Margaret Atwood – Handmaid's Tale

This novel is described as 'speculative fiction' and follows the story of Offred, a handmaid who lives in a dystopian society called Gilead. A powerful story of courage and survival in the face of repression.

- William Golding – Lord of the Flies

Following a plane crash on an uncharted island, a group of schoolboys are forced to form their own society without adult supervision in the face of terror, sin and evil.

**If you are interested in gaining an initial understanding of the content involved in Sociology, the following links and ideas would be worth looking at in detail**

ReviseSociology – a generally useful revision website and introduction

<https://revisesociology.com/>

Panorama – a documentary series from the BBC that deals with current affairs, often focuses on scandals and other events with large public interest.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006t14n>

Britsoc – The British Sociological Association website

<https://www.britsoc.co.uk/>