Coombe Wood Year 12 Bridging Work 2026/27

Coombe Wood Year 12 Bridging Work
SUBJECT: A Level Sociology
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Introduction to the course:
Sociology is the study of society, large groups of people, and individuals. It explores:

- How and why people behave the way they do in society
- How social structures such as the family and government influence human behaviour
- Human behaviour through the lens of social science, using research to investigate, explain and predict patterns in society
- How such understanding can help improve the lives of citizens

Sociology is a critical and radical subject. It questions why society is the way it is and digs beneath the surface to uncover what's really going on. It is the systematic study of human behaviour within society, which is a complex system. Sociologists adopt different perspectives and research methods based on their theoretical approach to understanding society. This makes Sociology a truly exciting A-level: it is current, political, eye-opening, and even life-changing.

In this subject, we focus particularly on how a person's social position (such as their gender, social class, and ethnicity) can affect their life chances in society. A key part of success in Sociology is learning and using the main ideas, concepts, and specialist terminology - the language of the subject - to analyse and discuss the topics and issues that shape our social world.

Course Overview
We follow the AQA Specification for A-level Sociology. This is a two-year course assessed through three two-hour written exams, each worth 33% of the final A-level grade (A*–E).

Topics we will cover:

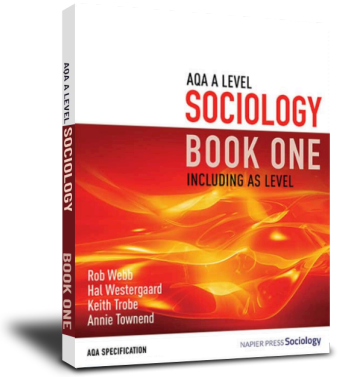
Year 12	Year 13
Introduction to Sociology	Crime and Deviance
Education	Beliefs in Society
Sociological Research Methods	Sociological Theories and Debates
Families and Households	

Follow this link to the specification as well as examples of exam papers and further resources/course information
https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-alevel/sociology-7191-7192

Books and Equipment:
Students must keep an organised file with the following:

- Lever arch file
- Lined paper
- Dividers for each topic
- A course tracker at the front

Recommended Textbook:
Napier Press: AQA A-Level Sociology Book 1 (2015 edition reprinted **with 2022 updates**)
Available at: https://napierpress.com/sociology/



Helpful Resources
Podcasts:

- Revise A-Level Sociology (Apple Podcasts)

Websites:

General

- Tutor2U Sociology
- Revise Sociology
- SparkNotes Sociology Glossary
- Quizlet: Sociology Key Words

Education

- BBC Education News
- The Guardian: Social Mobility
- Black British History in Schools
- Private Schools and Privilege (YouTube)
- Why Is the Government Taxing Private Schools? (BBC)

Families and Households

- Traditional Gender Roles (The Children's Society)
- Who Does the Housework? (YouTube)

All bridging work must be completed by 25/9 and forms part of your Pupil Passport at Coombe Wood Sixth Form.

BRIDGING TASKS

1. **What is sociology?**

There are a lot of key terms that you need to know and to make sure you write great essays! These are the basics:

Task : Define the following sociological key terms:

- Norms
- Values
- Status
- Role
- Socialisation
- Primary Socialisation
- Secondary Socialisation
- Society
- Culture
- Identity
- Sex
- Gender
- Race
- Ethnicity
- Social Differentiation
- Stratification
- Subculture
- Cultural Diversity
- Consensus
- Conflict

Task: Devise a colourful mind map (preferably with pictures/illustrations) of what sociology is all about.

Watch the two short clips below to get an idea about some of the core themes and ideas in sociology and do some of your own research

- What is Sociology? (YouTube)
- Sociology in Minutes (YouTube)

2. Researching Sociological theories

Sociologists seek to answer questions and develop theories about the social world. Their theories usually take the form of explanations of how or why social life follows the patterns that it does. You will need to understand the key theories in sociology:

- Functionalism,
- Marxism,
- Feminist theories
- Action theories.

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Task: Briefly summarise each theory in at least two paragraphs, including key ideas and the sociologists involved.

3. Research methods - How do sociologists study society?

Tasks:

- Design a concept map with the main research methods used in sociology and a brief explanation of each (experiment, participant observation, interviews, questionnaires, official statistics and documents).
- Can you find out what is the difference between positivists and interpretivists?

4. Education - Why do some groups underachieve in education?

Tasks: Read this article on 'The Lost Boys' here

- 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).
- To what extent is educational failure among white working-class boys caused mainly by poor parenting? use evidence from The Lost Boys article in your answer.

5. Family - How has the family changed over time?

Tasks: Watch these two adverts for McCain chips, one from the 1990s and one from 2017:

- 1990s McCain Ad
- 2017 McCain Ad
- Create a similarities and differences chart comparing how family life has changed over this time period.
- Do further research to explore why family life has changed. Use the websites listed earlier for support.