

# Preparing for A Level Sociology

Summer Work 2026



## Welcome to Sociology

Hello future Sociologists! A massive warm welcome to the Social Sciences department at Derby Cathedral School. This booklet contains a number of tasks for you to complete to a good standard in order to be enrolled in this subject. These tasks have been designed to give you a flavour of what A Level Sociology is all about and will introduce you to some core sociological concepts to aid your understanding ready for September. You need to have completed all of the tasks before our first lesson in September. You will need to hand it into your class teacher during your first lesson.

If you have any questions about the work please email [c.walker@derbycathedralschool.org.uk](mailto:c.walker@derbycathedralschool.org.uk)

We are looking forward to welcoming you in September!

### Key Information

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| <b>Exam Board</b>                                                      | AQA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Specification<br/>Exam Past<br/>Papers and<br/>Mark<br/>Schemes</b> | <a href="https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192/subject-content-a-level">https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192/subject-content-a-level</a><br><a href="https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192/assessment-resources">https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192/assessment-resources</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Textbooks</b>                                                       | We have class copies of the textbook that you are more than welcome to borrow and return. If you do wish to purchase your own copy, the links are below:<br>Year 12: <a href="https://amzn.eu/d/2SnuOTp">https://amzn.eu/d/2SnuOTp</a><br>Year 13: <a href="https://amzn.eu/d/ckD60kf">https://amzn.eu/d/ckD60kf</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Revision<br/>Guides</b>                                             | We have class copies of the revision guides that you are more than welcome to borrow and return. If you do wish to purchase your own copy, the link is below:<br>Year 12 & 13: <a href="https://amzn.eu/d/dtAIMcu">https://amzn.eu/d/dtAIMcu</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Organisation</b>                                                    | Organisation is the key to success with your A Levels. When you arrive in September , you will be provided with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A student handbook</li><li>• An assessment folder</li><li>• Class copies of the textbook and revision guide (these will stay at school)</li><li>• Online copies of the work</li><li>• Printed worksheets</li></ul> You will need to bring the following equipment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A folder for year 12 and year 13</li><li>• Folder dividers (x4 for year 12 and x3 for year 13)</li><li>• Lined paper OR a hole punched exercise book to go into your folder (can be provided)</li><li>• Plastic wallets</li><li>• Black pen, purple pen, highlighters and pencil</li></ul> |

## **Task 1 – How is the family defined?**

In the Families and Household topic, you need to be able to define and explain different types of families. Using the links below to help you as well as your own research, you need to create a key term dictionary with the family types below and their definition.

1. Household
2. Family
3. Nuclear family
4. Extended family
5. Beanpole family
6. Matriarchal family
7. Patriarchal family
8. Same-sex family
9. Single-parent household
10. Living apart together (LAT)
11. Cohabiting couples
12. Empty shell relationship
13. Empty nest family
14. Single/lone-parent household
15. Reconstituted families/blended families
16. Symmetrical families
17. Neo-conventional family

<https://revisesociology.com/2017/05/05/sociology-concepts-families-households/>

<https://revisesociology.com/2016/08/08/defining-the-family/>

<https://hecticteachersalevelsociologysite.wordpress.com/what-is-a-family/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yaeiCEro0iU>

| Key Term | Definition |
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## **Task 2 – How might the type of family we live in change over our life course?**

During our lives, our family types often change. For example, you might grow up in a nuclear family but then your parents may get divorced, so you become a reconstituted family or live in a lone parent family. Once you leave home, you might move in with your partner and enter a cohabiting family and so on.

I would like you to track the life course of somebody who is in late adulthood to see how families change over time. This could be a relative, a celebrity or a friend.

Success criteria:

- Draw a timeline to demonstrate how their family types have changed over time
- Refer to the different family types from task 2

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### **Task 3 – Research Methods**

For each scenario below circle the most effective research method and explain why you have picked this method:

| <b>Scenario</b>                                                                                                                             | <b>Method Choice (Circle One)</b>                  | <b>Reason?</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| You are researching 50 prisoners within a local prison to find out if they feel they are treated fairly within the criminal justice system. | 1. Questionnaire<br>2. Interview<br>3. Observation |                |
| You are researching 5 sociology A Level students within sixth form about their plans after their exams                                      | 1. Questionnaire<br>2. Interview<br>3. Observation |                |
| You are researching 1000 patients about their experience and waiting times in A&E                                                           | 1. Questionnaire<br>2. Interview<br>3. Observation |                |
| You are researching 100 women about whether they feel disadvantaged within the workplace                                                    | 1. Questionnaire<br>2. Interview<br>3. Observation |                |



This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

## Task 4 – Enrichment Opportunity

Once you start Sociology, you must actively use it in your everyday life. This includes engaging with wider enrichment opportunities. Each week your teacher will ask you to make a log of something you have listened to (e.g. podcast), watched (e.g. series/YouTube video/film) or read (e.g. article/book) that relates to Sociology. We have a long list of suggestions for you that we can share in September. In order to prepare over the summer, we would like you to pick one of the suggested enrichment opportunities below and write a summary paragraph about it (you can pick an alternative source if you discover something interesting and relevant).

| Read it                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Watch it                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ain't I a Woman? Black Women and Feminism, Bell Hooks</li> <li>• Gang Leader for a Day, Sudhir Venkatesh</li> <li>• Respectable: The Experience of Class, Lynsey Hanley</li> <li>• The Call of the Weird: Travels in American</li> <li>• Me and White Supremacy</li> <li>• Nations</li> <li>• I am Malala, Malala Yousafzai</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Back to School with Mum and Dad</li> <li>• Black and British: A Forgotten History</li> <li>• Beyond the Asylum</li> <li>• Harrow: A Very British School</li> <li>• Educating Essex/Yorkshire</li> <li>• Secret Life of Four Year Olds</li> <li>• The Doctor Who Gave Up Drugs</li> <li>• Catfish</li> <li>• East is East</li> <li>• Made in Dagenham</li> </ul> |

