

## RAS Year 11 to 12 Sociology A-Level Induction Programme

**Contact: Mrs Forrester – [k.forrester@ralphallenschool.com](mailto:k.forrester@ralphallenschool.com)**

**The following programme is designed introduce to you to A-Level sociology and sociology as a subject, which will be new to many of you.**

<p><b><u>Week One (Four Hours) Society</u></b></p> <p>The social world is changing. Some argue it is growing; others say it is shrinking. The important point to grasp is that society does not remain static over time, it constantly changes – through decades, centuries and across countries and societies. Answer the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Give 3 different ways society has changed over the last 100yrs – think about the different areas of social life and work (Hint – work, children, education, gender, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, ageing, equalities)</li><li>• Why has society changed? Why are societies different? What has happened to make these changes? <u>Write 3 paragraphs to explain the areas you chose above. (1 hr)</u></li><li>• Research the 3 main political parties – Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat: What are their main ideas? How are they different? (2 hrs)</li><li>• If you were in power, what would your first four items be on your agenda? What would you hope to do? (1hrs)</li></ul> <p><a href="https://www.parliament.uk/about/mps-and-lords/members/parties/">https://www.parliament.uk/about/mps-and-lords/members/parties/</a> <a href="http://simplepolitics.co.uk/questions-and-answers/who-are-the-parties-and-what-do-they-stand-for">http://simplepolitics.co.uk/questions-and-answers/who-are-the-parties-and-what-do-they-stand-for</a></p>	<p><b><u>Week Two (Four Hours) What is Sociology?</u></b></p> <p>Watch the video clip on YouTube: What is Sociology? Crash Course Sociology <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnCJU6PaCio">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnCJU6PaCio</a> and make notes on what you understand about Sociology. (1.5hrs)</p> <p>Find the definitions for the following key sociological terms (online research e.g. <a href="https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology">https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology</a> and use the search function : (2.5hrs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Socialisation (primary socialisation and secondary socialisation)</li><li>• Norms</li><li>• Values</li><li>• Beliefs</li><li>• Culture</li><li>• Social Class</li><li>• Gender</li><li>• Ethnicity</li></ul>	<p><b><u>Week Three (Four Hours) Main Sociological Theories</u></b></p> <p>A theory, for our purpose, is something that explains the relationship between two or more things. A perspective can be defined as a way of looking at and seeing something. To have a perspective, therefore, means to look at something (whatever that thing might be) in a particular way. When we talk about the sociological perspective, therefore, we are talking about the particular way those sociologists, as opposed to non-sociologists to try to understand human social behaviour.</p> <p>Watch: The YouTube channel below is good for summaries of the main theories. Watch set 1 and 2 (1.5hrs). <a href="https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuuaLiXtMJ-AfB_7J1538YKwKZAnGA">https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuuaLiXtMJ-AfB_7J1538YKwKZAnGA</a></p> <p>Use the internet to find out about the main sociological theories. For each one explain the main idea and concepts and the key sociologists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Functionalism</li><li>• Marxism</li><li>• Feminism</li><li>• Action Theories</li><li>• Postmodernism</li><li>• Which sociological perspective do you agree with? Why? (2.5 hrs)</li></ul> <p><a href="https://revisesociology.com/sociology-theories-a-level/">https://revisesociology.com/sociology-theories-a-level/</a> <a href="https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/topics/group/theory-methods-key-terms">https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/topics/group/theory-methods-key-terms</a></p>	<p><b><u>Week Four (Four Hours) Further Research</u></b></p> <p>Other sources of information/ways to develop your sociological understanding of local, regional, national and global issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• BBC News</li><li>• ‘Thinking aloud’ Radio 4 podcast</li><li>• Twitter #sociology</li><li>• Panorama</li><li>• Read a range of different newspapers</li><li>• Social media</li></ul> <p>Activity: Choose at least 2 of the options above to read or listen to and write a paragraph on what you found interesting. Try to use some of the key terms you researched such as norms or social class in your writing as well as what theorists such as Marxists of Feminists might think.</p> <p>At the end of this work you will write a 350 word piece of reflective writing. This is not a test. We want to see what you have learned over the course of your tasks and how you think. It also shows your commitment to your studies and to your course. Your reflective piece should include things like what new knowledge did you find the most interesting and why? Were you inspired to go further and study more in depth on a particular topic? If so, which topic and why? Have you found any links between the subjects that you have chosen?</p>
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**You should aim to complete all sections of the programme to ensure that you have a thorough understanding of some of the main ideas in sociology. The first part of the programme will take you up to the May half-term break. After half-term, we will introduce you to specific topic areas for the course. Aim to complete a task each week, as outlined below, but you might want to spread the 4th task over the available time you have e.g. reading a book. Suggested website links are included. Do contact me if you have any questions – [k.forrester@ralphallenschool.com](mailto:k.forrester@ralphallenschool.com)**

