

# Subject Course: Sociology

This bridging work **MUST** be completed by the time you start your course and it will be assessed in September. The aims are for you to be ready to start learning at post 16 level and are able to carry out remote learning from April-September.

## What do you do in your first year?

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**Exam Board:** AQA - all exam, no coursework.

In year 1 **two units** are taught;

Unit 1 Education with Methods in context

Unit 2: Research Methods and Topics in Sociology (Families & Households)

## Summer Bridging Work- ESSENTIAL

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During year 12 you will be expected to complete several essays beyond the classroom. The first topic you will study is Families & Households (analysing the position of men, women and children in the family).

You must complete the following tasks before starting the course:

**Research topic question:** *Is the position of men and women in the family equal?*

*The **Division of labour** refers to the roles that men and women occupy within the family. Many types of division of labour exist and have changed over time.*

**Task 1:** Research the following types of division of labour and complete the table.

**Find out the following:** What are the definitions for each type of division of labour? Research either statistical evidence or sociological research that supports each type of division of labour - the evidence does not need to be recent. Create a table as seen below:

Type of Division of labour	Definition	Statistics/ studies or sociologist names that support the type of division of labour
Instrumental role		
Expressive role		
Segregated role		
Joint conjugal role		
Symmetrical family		
Patriarchal family		
Matriarchal family		
Dual burden		
Triple shift		

**Task 2:** Write two statements; for and against the question “Is the position of men and women in the family equal?” You must include evidence to support your points, the definitions researched above and your own point of view. Each statement (for and against the question) should be at least one side of A4.

You can also use newspaper articles to support your statements e.g. which gender is more likely to carry out domestic work? Childcare? Or paid employment? Does this suggest the family is or is not equal?

**Task 3: Research project on the historical background of key sociologists**

A sociologist is a person who studies people’s social lives, activities and behaviours. You are going to research the sociologists below. I want you to find out the historical background of each of the sociologists below and answer the questions that follow for each sociologist.

Success criteria:

- A) What era were they writing in?
- B) Any famous books/ work they have published/ studies conducted
- C) What or who influenced them to think the way they did
- D) Is their work outdated today? Explain.

Sociologists:

1. Karl Marx
2. Talcott Parsons
3. Sue Sharpe
4. Ann Oakley
5. Frederick Engels
6. Philippe Aries
7. Emile Durkheim
8. Charles Murray
9. Young & Wilmott

**Task 4:** Now that you are aware of some of the sociologists that exist. You are going to research theoretical/ sociological perspectives. A theoretical/ sociological perspective offers an explanation of how society runs, functions and why it is structured in a particular manner.

Success criteria:

- A) Provide a summary of the theory.
- B) Identify the sociologists that support the theory e.g Marxism - Karl Marx.
- C) What is the theory’s viewpoint on the family? What functions does the family perform according to the theory? e.g Marxism argued that the function of the family is to serve capital- how?

For each theory below make sure you cover one A4 page:

1. **Marxism**
2. **Functionalism**
3. **Radical Feminism**
4. **Liberal Feminist**
5. **Marxist Feminist**
6. **New right theory**
7. **Postmodernist theory**

## Summer Bridging Work- RECOMMENDED

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Task: To look through the AQA website for A Level sociology. Go through past exam papers and familiarise yourself with the specification (both units).

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level>

Resources to read:

The Underclass: The Developing Debate [Paperback] (1996) Murray.

The Communist Manifesto (Penguin Classics) by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels (2004)

## Required Resources

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It is vital that you purchase one of the following textbook for the course:

**AQA A-level Sociology: Student Book 1** (4th edition), Collins, 2015  
ISBN-13: 978-0-00-759747-5

**AQA Sociology for A Level Year 1:** Bown, Pountney and Maric.  
ISBN-13: 978-1-4718-3939-9

**And an option of:**

**AQA Collins Student support Materials for AQA AS Sociology: Unit 1: Families and Households:** Holborn, Steel & Langley.

You must also buy 2 x A3 Ring binder folders, plastic wallets and subject dividers.