

Progression to A Level Sociology at Prior Pursglove College

Exam board AQA

We begin with discussing Sociology and how it is a study of society

- Key theories such as functionalism, Marxism, Feminism, New Right and Post modernism are initially explored.
- The first theme is families and households where we look at how the key theories view family then continue with domestic division of labour.

Everything can be located in the textbook:

Webb R, Westergaard H, Trobe K, Townend A . AQA A Level Sociology Book One

The following link to AQA highlights the topics we study :

Paper 1 Education, Methods in context and Theory and Methods.

Paper 2 Families and Households and Media.

Paper 3 Crime and Deviance and Theory and Methods.

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192/specification-at-a-glance>

The following is a brief explanation of just one of the theories on You Tube. There are also quick videos on the other theories too. These are useful to gain an initial understanding.

Marxism <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gR3igiwaeyc>

What is Sociology? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnCJU6PaCio>

We begin to discuss how educational processes such as teacher labelling affect our progress and also how class, gender and ethnicity may affect educational achievement

For this you could watch:

The School Swap documentaries: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRu0OIQ0JkY>

Poor Kids documentaries <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9aSp9bFmMg>

Think about what problems or issues may affect differences in educational achievement amongst these groups

You may also want to have a look at some of the old entry tests which students would have been expected to sit before going to school, see what score you would have gained, and where this would have meant you were sent to.... <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2016/sep/09/would-you-get-into-grammar-school-take-our-11-plus-exam>

We then look at Crime and Deviance, considering issues relating to punishment, prevention and the role of the police. Watch the documentaries online at the moment and begin to think about 'do prisons work?' The best for this are:

Prisons (Channel 4)

24 Hours in Police Custody (Channel 4)

Our Cops in the North (BBC1)

In our media module we also begin to think about the impact that representations of certain groups in the media have upon our own ideas/feelings. For this you could do some wider reading such as:

'Chavs The Demonization of the Working Class'- Owen Jones...for those interested in Madeline McCann, there is a very good chapter on her disappearance

'The Establishment and How They Get Away With it'- Owen Jones...again a really good evaluation of how the rich are seemingly less punished than the traditionally 'poor' in society.

There are also a number of very good documentaries on representations and some films portraying social groups in certain ways:

Straight Outta Compton- think about the representation of ethnic groups and the way that the police interact with them, think about the lyrics which they use in their music and what it represents

The Full Monty, Billy Elliot, I Daniel Blake- think about these true and gritty depictions of the working class and their struggles, is this fair

Dark Waters, Deep Water Horizon- think about the representation of corporations in the pursuit of profit

Misrepresentation- think about the representation of gender and the body in the media

Outfoxed- pay attention to the way in which owners of the media control their staff and the messages which they promote in their media.

There is also a lot of opportunities to undertake your own sociological research during this topic. You could make a questionnaire to ask your family/friends about how they see groups represented in the media, whether prison works, what alternatives to prison we have, whether ethnic minorities experience discrimination in the education system. OR look through magazines and news articles yourself and see what messages are being fed to their audience. Are they FAIR?