Transition Task

How Do Sociologists Think?

This task is designed to start to prepare you for the transition from GCSE to Advanced level study. Please complete these short tasks during the summer holiday and bring the results to your first Sociology lesson.

In Sociology we will look at themes of culture, identity, gender, ethnicity, class, age and cover topics including youth cultures, education, crime and deviance and inequalities.

Task 1:

Consider the following cultures: UK, Iran, USA, Japan and compare their beliefs, behaviours, customs and traditions. Look at the definition of culture on the next page.
You could do this as a visual mind map.

Task 2:

Watch any Youtube video on gang membership such as London gangs

Now list

- **Characteristics of gangs**
- **reasons why people may join gangs**

Do you think youth crime, gang violence and specifically knife crime are real problems and/or are they exaggerated by the media.

Some sociologists argue that the media create Moral Panics which leads to some groups *like young people* becoming demonised (folk devils). If you are interested you could research these terms online using google or this link Moral Panics.

Task 3:

Consider the films & programmes you watch, the people you follow on Twitter or Instagram, the books you read, the news you read/see/hear, the music you listen to. Can you make any links from them to the themes (above) that we will look at in Sociology?

Watch, listen or read some of the suggestions on the next page. Jot down some notes and analysis from these books, films, documentaries, lectures or podcasts and create an ongoing file which you can share with your peers and staff throughout your A level studies. You can use the blank sheet on the last page to do this. Remember, as one of our current A level Sociologists said, "Sociology is all around us, in everything we do and everything we see".

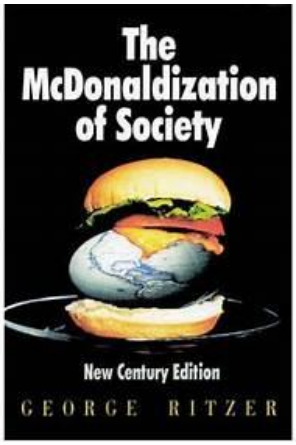
Learn these key sociological definitions of:

Culture – the way of life of a particular society e.g. language, customs, dress, symbols
Identity – the sense of self that an individual develops
Norms – unwritten rules of accepted behaviour
Values – shared ideas about what is seen as important and right
Subculture – a group with different values, beliefs and practices to mainstream culture
Crime – breaking laws
Deviance – breaking norms

Now can you think of an example of norms, crime and deviance?

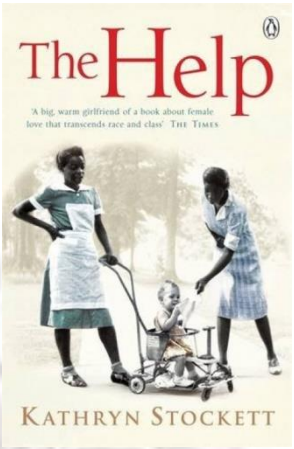
For the summer!

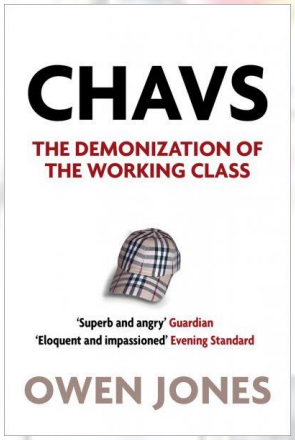
You might read:



The Mc Donaldization of Society by George Ritzer

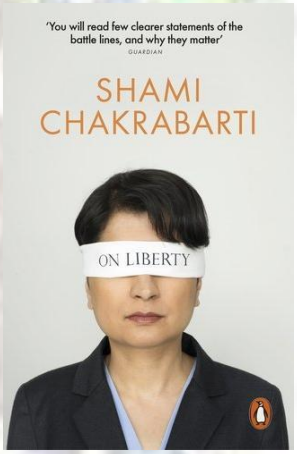
The Help by Kathryn Stockett

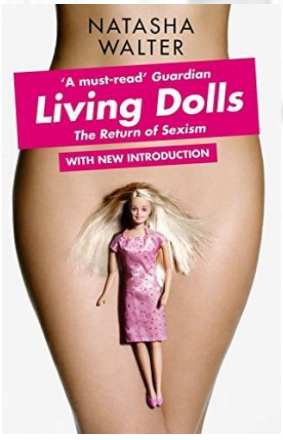




Chavs: the demonization of the Working Class by Owen Jones

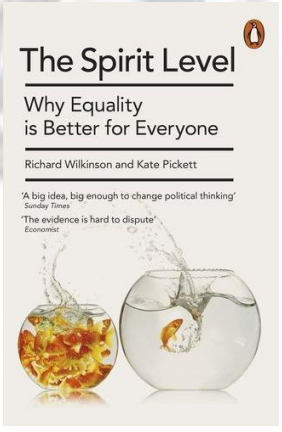
On Liberty by Shami Chakrabarti



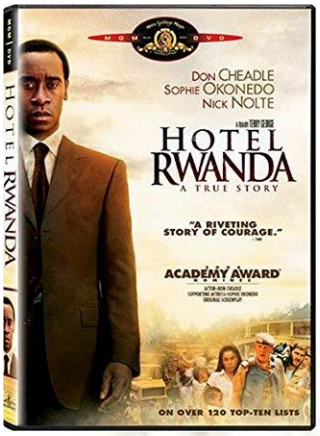


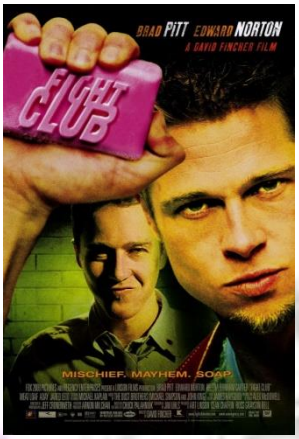
Living Dolls by Natasha Walter

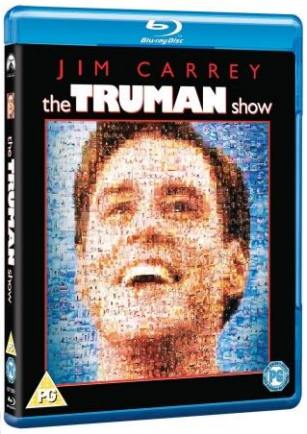
The Spirit Level by Wilkinson & Pickett



You might watch:







Sociology on YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCltQS7ZuOoJSHaPW53t0sig/videos

The Up series on BBC iplayer – now on 63-Up

A TED talk on sociology: https://www.ted.com/topics/sociology

You might listen to:

Podology: a range of sociological podcasts at http://www.podology.org.uk/

BBC Radio 4: Thinking Allowed by Laurie Taylor at https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qy05

You could browse:

the British Sociological Association website at https://www.britsoc.co.uk/

The skills required of a Sociology student

- Good attendance to lectures
- Intellectual curiosity with an ability to engage in independent research
- Completion of homework assessments to the best of your ability and in on time
- Analysis of sources of information and methods of data collection
- Evaluation skills, question everything
- The ability to work independently and to be relied upon as part of a team e.g. in the preparation of presentations
- A willingness to contribute to class debate and to listen, question and consider the views of others in a sensitive manner

Shopping list

The following resources form part of the essential kit for an A level Sociology student.

1) You will need to purchase your own text book, WJEC/Eduqas Sociology for AS & Year 1: Student Book by Janis Griffiths (we have some secondhand copies to purchase)
2) Choose or we will give you a Folder to fit your A4 notes
3) We will give you dividers to organise your work by teacher, theory and subsections matched to the specification (you may need more of your own)
4) You will need an A4 pad where you can remove notes / assessments to file into folder or pass to your teachers.
5) You will be given some but will need more index cards for revision
6) You will need Pens, Ruler, Highlighter
7) Other texts and revision guides will be recommended throughout the course.

Applying Sociology to the everyday world notes