

A Level Sociology Summer Bridging Project

What is the Bridging Project?

The project aims to introduce you to the rigours of A Level Sociology and allows you to begin developing your skills ready to hit the ground running when you start the A Level course in September. It also introduces you to Sociology as a new academic discipline. The project will be completed before starting the course and will be used in the early lessons leading to an early assessment, therefore it is vital that you complete it well as you begin your first steps into A Levels. We study the AQA specification which can be found using the following link.

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/sociology/specifications/AQA-7191-7192-SP-2015.PDF>

The Bridging Project will have 3 parts. The first to introduce you to Sociology as you will not have studied it before. Parts 2 and 3 will then introduce the two main topics in Year 12 – Families and Households / Education.

Bridging Project Part 1 – What is Sociology ?

This section introduces Sociology as a subject considering some of its key terminology and also introduces the theoretical basis of the study of society.

It also briefly considers how we go about studying society and the methodological issues we face when we do so.

Please read the attached section of the textbook and then complete the subsequent Independent Learning booklet which can also be downloaded (best in Google Chrome) as a free resource from the Napier Press website.

<https://napierpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/WhatisSociologyStudentWorkbook.pdf>

Bridging Project Part 2 – The Role of Education in Society

This section considers the role education plays in society from a theoretical basis. It considers questions such as :-

How far does education provide equal opportunities ?

How far does it reproduce inequality ?

In what ways does it serve the needs of the economy ?

What kind of knowledge, skills, attitudes and values does education transmit ?

It considers answers from a Functionalist, Neoliberal, New Right and Marxist theories to these key questions.

Please read the attached section of the textbook and then complete the subsequent Independent Learning booklet (just the Topic on “The Role of Education”) which can also be downloaded (best in Google Chrome) as a free resource from the Napier Press website.

<https://napierpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/EducationStudentWorkbook.pdf>

Bridging Project Part 3 – Theories of the Family

This section considers how the family fits into wider society. Essentially, it considers the role and purpose of the family. It considers issues such as :-

What are the functions of the family ? What does it do for its members and wider society ?

What form does the family take and does it work for the benefit of everybody in it ?

It introduces students to theories that have been created to tackle such issues from a Functionalist, Marxist, Feminist and Personal Life Perspective theoretical viewpoint.

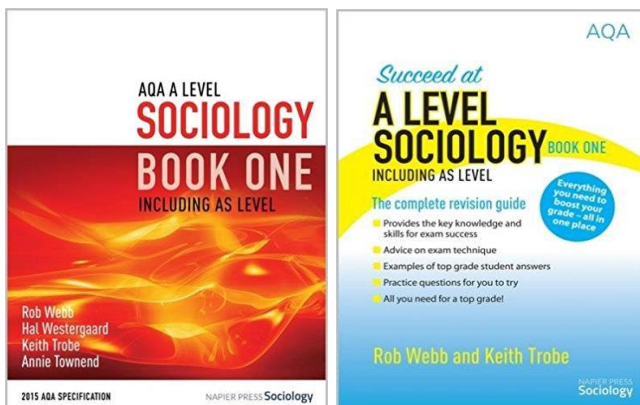
Please read the attached section of the textbook and then complete the subsequent Independent Learning booklet(just the part on Theories of the Family) which can also be downloaded (best in Google Chrome) as a free resource from the Napier Press website.

<https://napierpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/FamiliesandHouseholdsStudentWorkbook.pdf>

The work should be handed in at the first lesson in September. However, if you have any further questions or require clarification please email – r.haydon@alleynes.staffs.sch.uk

Further resources / websites

All the information required to complete the assessment can be found on the website. However, if you wish to develop this further the following textbooks (from which the information came) can be purchased for start of the course in September. These are our only recommended texts and students can explore further issues if they wish by skimming through some of the topics in the book.



AQA A Level Sociology Book One Including AS Level: Book one by Rob Webb et al

This can be purchased via most good book suppliers (Napier Press website above can be used to order directly from the publisher) but there is not a necessity to buy it now although it will be required in the future study when it commences in September. The revision guide accompanying it has also been found to be very useful to previous year students and I would recommend it.