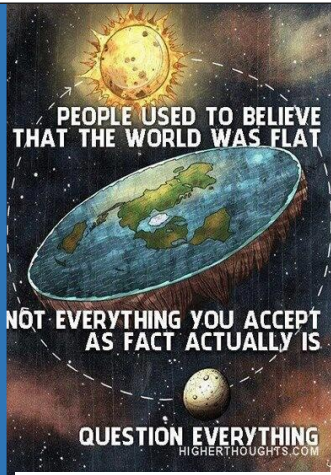


Contact Maggie Tate if you have any questions

or you would like some feedback

mte@woking.ac.uk



Gender is...

a spectrum

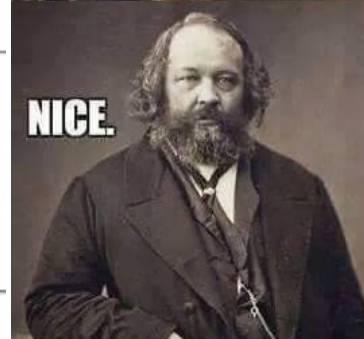
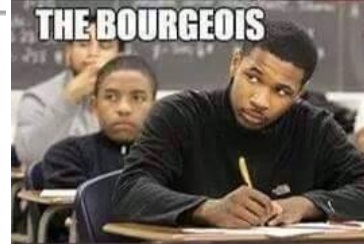
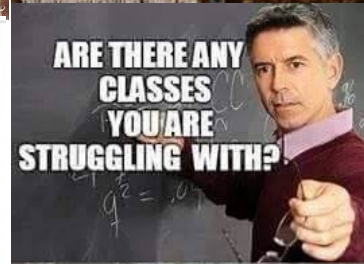
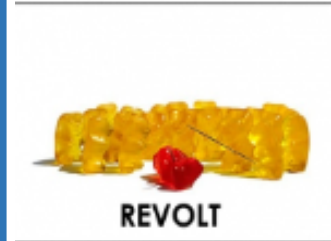
a range of expression

how you relate to yourself

HELLO my name is

Me!

a personal identity



“The function of sociology, as of every science, is to reveal that which is hidden.”

Pierre Bourdieu

DEMAND EVIDENCE AND THINK CRITICALLY

Gender is not..

just male or female

defined by body parts

sexual orientation

determined by chromosomes

NURTURE

NATURE

TRUTH IS NOT ADVERTISED

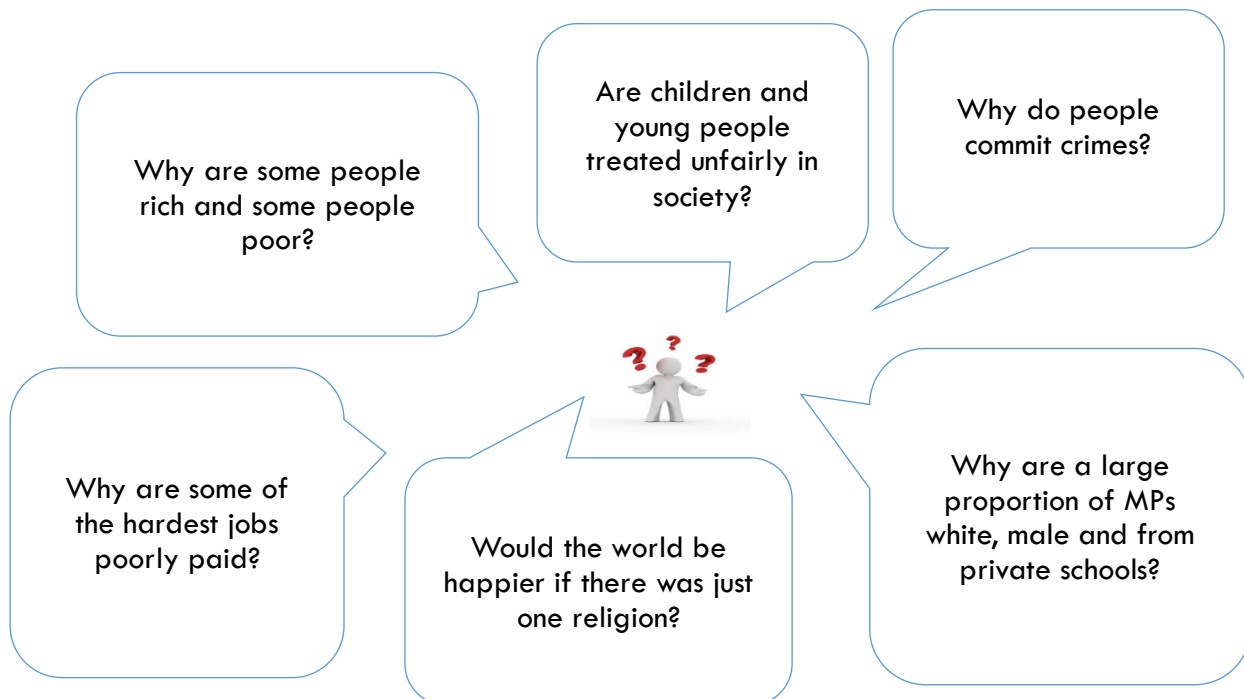
Please work your way this booklet, completing each of the tasks

What is Sociology?

- The study of society, large groups of people and individuals.
- It studies how and why people behave the way they do in society
- It looks at how structures such as family and Government influence human behaviour
- It uses research to investigate and predict human behaviour to help governments improve the lives of its citizens
- A critical and radical subject, it is about questioning why society is as it is. It is about digging under the surface and looking at what is really going on.

Is Sociology for me?

Yes, if you're interested in the following questions...



Sociology is not...

- **Common sense**
- **Easy**
- **Wishy washy and unscientific**

TASK 1: Answer the following questionnaire – What kind of sociologist are you?

1. The defining characteristic of human behaviour is:

- A) Their gender/ sex
- B) Their social class
- C) Their Race
- D) Their integration into society
- E) Their culture

2. We have the freedom to choose our own behaviour

- A) Yes
- B) No
- C) Depends
- D) Doesn't matter
- E) What is freedom?

3. What are your views on the family....

- A) Family is oppressive to women and teaches us to conform to gender roles
- B) Family is a tool of the ruling class teaching us to obey authority
- C) Family is a vital part of socialisation that teaches us norms and values
- D) Family is what you make it, everyone has a different view on it
- E) Family – what is a family? You can't define it

4. When it comes to inequality

- A) Gender is the most serious issue!
- B) Money and power the rich exploit the poor!
- C) Inequality is normal part of society
- D) Inequality is a label that has different meanings to people
- E) You make your own reality up

5. When it comes to Crime

- A) The justice system is more lenient on men who commit violent crime
- B) Criminal laws protect the rich and powerful
- C) Crime is good for society as it reminds us of the rules
- D) Crimes are actions labelled as wrong to influence our behaviour
- E) Crime – what is a crime? Can we really define what a crime is?

6. When it comes to religion

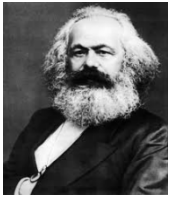
- A) Religion oppresses and controls women – telling us to cover up and be obedient
- B) Religion is a tool used by those with power to control us
- C) Religion is a useful institution which unites people who share a common set of beliefs
- D) Religion means different things to different people
- E) Religion is just another meta-narrative (big story) people use to explain reality

RESULTS:



Mostly A – Our Feminist

You are most likely to turn into our feminist Sue Sharpe. Feminism looks at how society is structured in a way that benefits men while oppressing women – this is known as patriarchy (male domination.). The theory is often misunderstood; stereotypes and misconceptions about feminists exist. Many people do not realise that there are several types of feminism such as black, radical, liberal, Marxist and eco-feminism.



Mostly B – Our Marxist

You are most likely to turn into Karl Marx. Marxism looks at how society is constructed is a way that produces class conflict with the rich having all the power and control whilst the poor are oppressed. Marx argues that the root cause of class inequality is down to capitalism as it encourages people to be greedy and materialistic. Just as capitalism replaced feudalism, Marx argues that capitalism will one day be replaced with communism



Mostly C- Our Functionalist

You are most likely to turn into Emile Durkheim. Functionalism is a theory that argues members of society are united together by a shared set of ideas and beliefs called 'norms' (normal behaviour.) These norms are accepted by all members in society and are enforced by structures such as family and education. They see society like a human body – with all parts needed in order for it to 'function' and work effectively.



Mostly D- Our interactionist

You are most likely to turn into Becker/Mead. Interactionism looks at how people create meaning during social interactions; how they present and construct the self (or identity) as well as how they define situations. One of the perspective's key ideas is that people act the way they do because of how they define situations. Becker uses the example of nudity to illustrate how timing, place and audience can influence how people see an action or idea and decide whether it is acceptable or deviant.



Mostly E – Our post-modernist

You are most likely to turn into Foucault. Post-modernism is a more recent Sociological theory which seeks to question and de-construct existing structures and understandings of reality. Post modernism rejects the idea that one theory such as functionalism, Utilitarianism, religion or even science can explain reality!

TASK 2: Read the following article

Introduction to sociology

Joan Garrod

New to sociology? We summarise some topics and skills you'll be discovering

Let's be clear about one thing from the start: you have chosen one of the most interesting and exciting A-level subjects possible. Many of your friends (and perhaps even you yourself) will be unclear about what sociology actually is. Fear not! You will soon be telling them all sorts of things about society that they didn't know, and I guarantee that you will be embarking on some lively discussions, both in and out of the classroom.

What, how, why?

However, sociology is a rigorous academic subject, and you will develop some very useful skills along the way. These include researching topics from books, articles and the internet, analysing data presented in various formats, evaluating ideas, hypotheses, theories and research methods to identify their strengths and weaknesses — and, of course, doing a lot of reading and writing essays.

Some of the things that you will learn will challenge some of your long-held beliefs, and others will make you think about things that you never really thought about before.

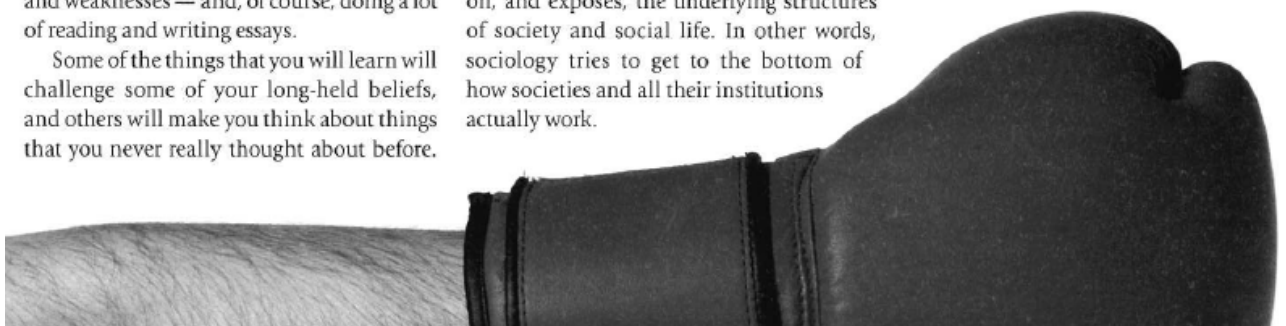
While you will choose some particular topic areas to go alongside the compulsory parts of the course, you will soon learn that there is absolutely nothing about society that doesn't interest sociologists — they share an overwhelming curiosity to find out about and understand what makes societies 'tick'. Three of the most important words used by sociologists are 'What?', 'How?' and 'Why?'

A combat sport

As in any discipline, sociologists do not always agree with each other — but that is why the skills of analysis and evaluation that you will develop are so important. The sociologist Pierre Bourdieu (you will hear quite a lot about him during your course) referred to sociology as a 'combat sport'. He thought this because sociology doesn't ever take things at face value. It casts a critical eye on, and exposes, the underlying structures of society and social life. In other words, sociology tries to get to the bottom of how societies and all their institutions actually work.

So what will I study in A Level Sociology at Woking College?

- Research Methods
- Sociological Theory
- Family and Households
- Education
- Research Methods in Education
- Beliefs
- Crime and Deviance



TASK 3: What is Sociology?

Watch the video clip on YouTube: What is Sociology? Crash Course Sociology

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnCJU6PaCio> (make notes in the space below)

Key Ideas:

Using the *online Sociology dictionary* <https://sociologydictionary.org/> , write down definitions for the following key sociological terms:

Term	Meaning
Socialisation (primary socialisation and secondary socialisation)	
Norms	
Values	
Beliefs	
Culture	
Social Class	
Gender	
Ethnicity	

TASK 4: Finding out about key sociological perspectives

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, try to understand human social behaviour.

Use the internet to find out about the main sociological perspectives. For each one write a short summary that identifies:

- (i) key sociologists associated with that perspective
and**
- (ii) an explanation of the main ideas and concepts**

- Functionalism
- Marxism
- Feminism
- Action Theories
- Postmodernism

The following websites are useful:

- <https://revisesociology.com/sociology-theories-a-level/>

(detailed)

- <https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/topics/group/theory-methods-key-terms>

(overview)

TASK 5: Finding out about the history of education in the UK

Research the History of Education in the UK, specifically these Acts:

- Forster Act 1870
- Education Act 1944 (Tripartite System)
- Comprehensives 1966
- Education Reform Act 1988

<https://www.schoolsmith.co.uk/history-of-education/>

<https://getrevising.co.uk/revision-notes/social-policy-and-education>

Draw a timeline to show what major changes have taken place in UK education in the 20th and 21st centuries

TASK 6: Exploring Families and Education

- a) Find a definition of meritocracy.
 - b) Read the following news article <https://www.tes.com/news/few-one-20-born-poorest-areas-go-university> and answer the following questions:
 - Does this article suggest we live in a meritocracy?
 - Why is it important that 'poor' students go to university?
 - c) Find 5 news articles that link to Education and/or Families.
 - d) Download and print/cut and paste a link to the articles on a Word document.
- Some things to look out for are: **immigration, poverty, benefits, exam results, private education, achievement, free schools.**

These links might be a starting point:

<https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/Sociology>

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/sociology>

TASK 7: Exploring the changing experience of childhood

Research different experiences of childhood across the world and give reasons for why society may or may not be more 'child-centred'

<https://revisionworld.com/a2-level-level-revision/sociology-level-revision/family/childhood>

TASK 8: Exploring Crime and Deviance

Using the following website:

<https://www.coursehero.com/sg/introduction-to-sociology/defining-crime-in-sociology/>

Research and write down the answers to the following questions:

1. What is a crime?
 2. What is deviance?
 3. What are laws?
 4. What is a white collar crime?
 5. Moral crimes include offences such as prostitution, underage drinking and illegal drug use. Why do some people argue that such crimes are 'victimless'?
 6. What is cybercrime? Name some examples of cybercrimes.
 7. What is a hate crime?
 8. What do you think is more effective in reducing crime: crime prevention or harsher punishments?
- Go onto the following website and research crime in your area or the area near your school: <https://www.crime-statistics.co.uk/postcode/AL10%208NL>
 1. Where does most crime take place?
 2. What are the top 3 crimes/offences?
 3. Why do you think that those crimes are committed in your area?

Additional Tasks

Other sources of information/ways to develop your sociological understanding of local, regional, national and global issues:

- BBC News
- 'Thinking Allowed' Radio 4 podcast
- Twitter #sociology
- Panorama
- Read a range of different newspapers
- Social media

Extra reading:

- "Gang Leader for a Day" by Sudhir Venkatesh
- "Watching the English: The Hidden Rules of English Behaviour" by Kate Fox
- "Chavs: The Demonization of the Working Class" by Owen Jones
- "Animal Farm" by George Orwell
- "Lord of the Flies" by William Golding
- "We Should All Be Feminists" by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- "Natives: Race and Class in the Ruins of Empire" by Akala

Free Online Courses to really challenge you!

- **Football – More than a game** (6 week course - 3 hrs per week)
<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/football>

- **Incarceration: Are prisons a suitable punishment?** (2 week course – 4hrs per week)

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/incarceration-prisons-suitable-punishment>

PLEASE BRING ALL YOUR WORK IN A FOLDER ALONG TO ENROLMENT.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU