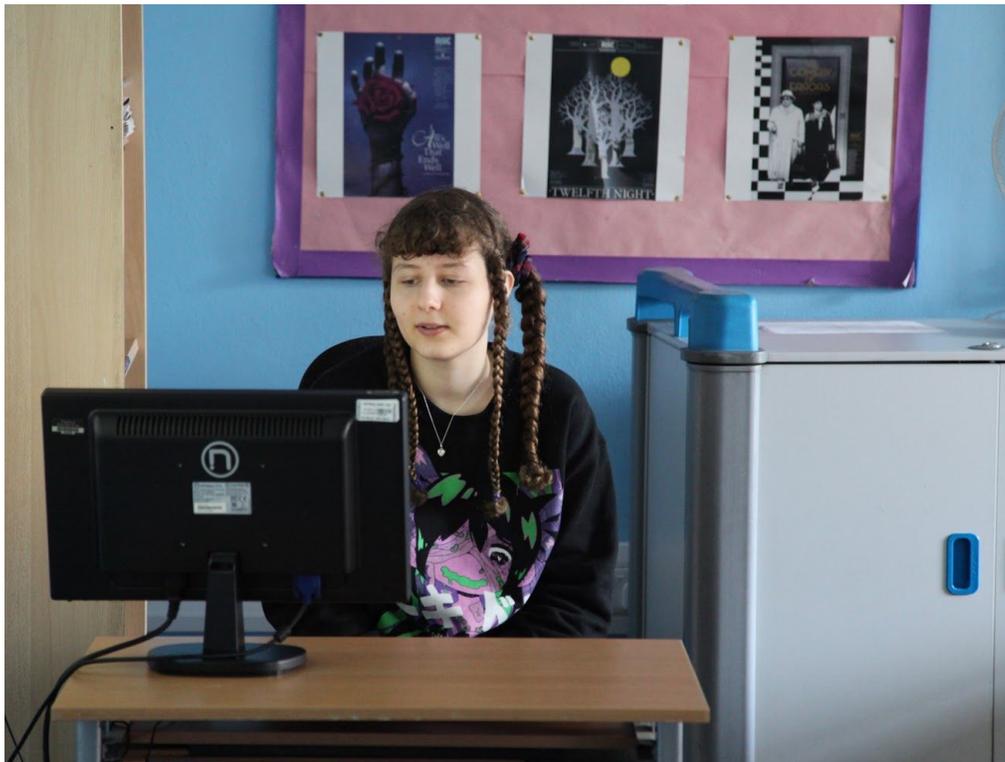




Portland
Place
School

Sixth Form A Level Sociology Transition Booklet



Name:

Welcome to Sociology at Portland Place

This Transition work is designed to help you to bridge the gap between your GCSE studies and AS/A Level.

Why do Transition work?

Preparation is crucial for studying A levels. A levels require you to be an independent learner. Although you have fewer subjects, A levels require different study skills and the volume of work is greater due to the increased demand of depth and detail. The exercises in this booklet will ensure that you are ready for the exciting challenges of becoming an A level student in September. It may be necessary to complete some of the tasks on separate sheets of paper. You have the choice of either typing or handwriting your responses. Each subject will be slightly different, but they will all require you to use the skills you will need for A level: independent enquiry; evidence of reading around the subject and enthusiasm and interest.

Is Transition work assessed?

Yes. In September, your subject teacher will ask you for your Transition work and it will be assessed. Teachers will be able to diagnose your strengths and weaknesses and begin to support and challenge you in a more targeted way.

You must bring all the work with you to your first Year 12 Sociology lesson in September.



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Sociology

Ever wonder why humans behave the way they do? Are our thoughts and actions ultimately determined by external forces? Are we all just agents of social control? Is crime and deviance just a social construction? Is the mass media destroying our culture and values? This course will enable you to gain a fresh understanding of human behaviour and question the taken-for-granted nature of social life.

This subject is fantastic if you have a curiosity about the world and the people who live in it. It is a contemporary subject which is also very much rooted in the past and it explores the ability for individuals and groups to make social change. The course covers a variety of social issues such as the media and crime and deviance from a range of theoretical perspectives including Marxism, Feminism and Postmodernism. The main themes we explore are socialisation, culture, identity and globalisation including the digital world. It is an interdisciplinary subject as it gives you the unique opportunity to investigate aspects of Psychology, Philosophy, History, Technology, Biology, Media, Government and Politics.

Course Outline

Unit 1: Introducing socialisation, culture and identity

This unit introduces learners to the key themes of socialisation, culture and identity and develops these themes through the context of Youth Subcultures. These options develop skills that enable individuals to focus on their personal identity, roles and responsibilities within society and develop a lifelong interest in social attitudes and issues.

This option focuses on youth as an important period in the socialisation process when individuals are developing a sense of identity within their peer groups. It allows learners to explore different types of youth subcultures and the roles they may play in society.

Key Questions:

1. What is culture, socialisation and identity?
2. How and why are youth culture and subcultures formed, and why do young people participate in deviant subcultures?

Unit 2: Research methods and researching social inequalities

This unit explores the methods of sociological enquiry and develops knowledge and understanding of contemporary social processes and social change in the context of social inequality and difference looking at social class, gender, ethnicity and age. It develops links between the nature of sociological thought and methods of sociological enquiry.

In this section, learners are introduced to a range of methods and sources of data as well as the factors influencing the design of sociological research and the relationship between theory and methods. Learners are encouraged to consider the practical, ethical and theoretical issues arising in sociological research and to apply knowledge of research methods to the particular context of social inequalities.

Key Questions:

1. What are the main stages of the research process?
2. Which methods are used in sociological research?
3. What is the relationship between theory and methods?
4. What are the main patterns and trends in social inequality (social class, gender, ethnicity and age) and difference?
5. How can patterns and trends be explained (functionalism, Marxism, Weberian, feminism and New Right)?

Unit 3: Globalisation and the digital social world

This unit engages learners in theoretical debates and how these relate to a contemporary global society. The component will develop knowledge and understanding of social processes and

social change. It develops links between the crime and deviance, the nature of sociological thought, contemporary social policy and the core themes.

Key Questions

1. What is the relationship between globalisation and digital forms of communication?
2. What is the impact of digital forms of communication in the global context?
3. How are crime and deviance defined and measured?
4. What are the patterns and trends in crime?
5. How can crime and deviance be explained?
6. How can crime and deviance be reduced?

Year 11 to Year 12 Sociology AS/A-Level Transition Unit

See, Hear, Read, Visit and Do

Select one suggestion from each of the see, hear, read and visit sections and answer the questions that follow.

See

- Made in Dagenham, Nigel Cole (2010)
- I, Daniel Blake, Ken Loach (2016)
- Bend it Like Beckham, Gurinder Chadha (2002)
- Truman Show, Peter Weir (1998)
- Supersize Me, Morgan Spurlock (2004)
- Blade Runner, Ridley Scott (1982)
- Rebel Without a Cause, Nicholas Ray (1955)
- Back in Time for the Weekend: The 50s, The 60s, The 70s, The 80s, The 90s and The Future https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kyke2sQ_5FU
- Grayson Perry: All Man (2016)
- Quadrophenia, Frank Roddam (1979)
- Sid and Nancy, Alex Cox (1986)
- This is England, Shane Meadows (2006)
- We Need To Talk About Kevin, Lynne Ramsay (2011)
- Straight Outta Compton, F. Gary Gray (2015)

Hear

- Candi Staton (1976) 'Young Hearts Run Free'
- Nas (1999) 'New World'
- The Streets (2002) 'Original Pirate Material' (Album)
- Coolio (1995) 'Gangsta's Paradise'
- Eminem (2000) 'Stan'
- Pulp (1995) 'Common People'
- The Who (1965) 'My Generation'
- Billy Bragg (1983) 'A New England'
- Nirvana (1991) 'Smells Like Teen Spirit'

Visit

Tate Modern

- Media and Networks on floor 4 of Boiler House (pay particular attention to Andy Warhol and Pop Art)

Frida Kahlo: Making Her Self Up

- This exhibition presents an extraordinary collection of personal artefacts and clothing belonging to the iconic Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. Locked away for 50 years after her death, this collection has never before been exhibited outside Mexico.

The Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, 2018

- Coordinated by Grayson Perry and including some of his work. Grayson Perry is a great chronicler of contemporary life, drawing us in with wit, affecting sentiment and nostalgia as well as, at times, fear and anger. In his work, Perry tackles subjects that are universally human: identity, gender, social status, sexuality, religion.

Photographers Gallery, Soho

- Excellent range of exhibitions which explore themes of sexuality, gender, ethnicity, nationality and culture.

Read

- Dick Hebdige (1979) 'Subculture: The Meaning of Style'
- Stanley Cohen (2011) 'Folk Devils and Moral Panics'
- Owen Jones (2016) 'Chavs: The Demonization of the Working Class'
- Ann Barr (1983) 'The Official Sloane Ranger Diary: The First Guide to the Sloane Year'
- No Logo Naomi Klein (2010) New Branded World pp.3-27, The Branding of Learning: Ads in Schools and Universities pp.87-106
- Sister act: the Singh Twin
<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2010/nov/18/singh-sisters-artists-identity>

Do

1. What is Sociology (100 words)?
2. Outline and explain why sociology is important (500 words).
3. Analyse the impact globalisation/ ethnicity/ gender/ rise of corporations has had on contemporary society (choose the most appropriate topic area based on what you have seen, heard, read and visited). (500 words)