

Welcome to Sociology! It’s a fantastic course that will help to open your mind to new ways of thinking about the ways that we live. Sociology is the scientific study of society. Learning about Sociology helps you to think about the ways that people in our world act, think and interact. There are so many different topics that we study, from media to crime to education, that there’s always something new and interesting to learn.

This transition task will introduce you to one of the major Sociologists that you will study throughout the course. I hope you enjoy finding out about them!

***You are expected to purchase the course text book in advance of starting the course or as soon as possible upon commencing the course (it doesn’t need to be a new book!).***

The recommended book for Year 1 of the Sociology course is:

**AQA A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY BOOK ONE**

**Rob Webb et al**

**Napier Press Sociology**

**ISBN 978-0-9540079-1-1**

**TRANSITION TASK**

**Choose one of the following famous Sociologists to research:**

* Emile Durkheim (a ‘founding father’ of Sociology, functionalist)
* Karl Marx (a ‘founding father’ of Sociology, the original Marxist!) - Stanley Cohen (Criminologist)
* Talcott Parsons (Functionalist)
* Germaine Greer (Feminist)
* Shulamith Firestone (Feminist)

**You should find out about:**

* Two or three of their major theories/ideas.
* Famous books they wrote and a summary of their content.
* Information about their life - country of origin, birth/death, interesting events.
* Which Sociological perspective they held (given in brackets beside their name) and what that means.
* Some famous quotes -discuss what each quotation suggests about the nature of society.

**Record what you find** in a method of your choice – you may prefer to make notes, produce a leaflet or even design a short PowerPoint. You will find these notes very useful when you learn about your chosen Sociologist throughout the course.

**Websites to help you:**

<http://www.podology.org.uk/#/education/4556339398>

[www.sociology.uk.net](http://www.sociology.uk.net)

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| ***Sociology Central*** | *http://www.sociology.org.uk/* |
| ***Sociology Stuff*** | [*http://www.sociologystuff.com*](http://www.sociologystuff.com) |
| ***S-Cool*** | [*http://www.s-cool.co.uk/*](http://www.s-cool.co.uk/) |
| ***Sociology Learning Support*** | *http ://www.chrisgardner.clara.net/sls1/home.htm* |
| ***School Sociology*** | [*http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/barrycomp/bhs/index.htm*](http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/barrycomp/bhs/index.htm) |
| ***Association for the Teaching of Social Sciences*** | [*http://www.le.ac.uk/education/centres/ATSS/sites.html*](http://www.le.ac.uk/education/centres/ATSS/sites.html) |
| ***AQA (the examining body for your course. Contains lots of past papers and mark schemes)*** | *http://www.aqa.org.uk* |