

SOCIOLOGY A LEVEL

Preparing for your course:

Over the summer holiday boost your knowledge and understanding of current social developments/debates. Possible topics:

FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS

1. Welfare availability – ease of access to benefits
2. Austerity cuts – reasons/effects?
3. Social care for the elderly – who pays?
4. Domestic violence
5. Child protection/abuse
6. Immigration/emigration/net migration
7. Grenfell Tower

EDUCATION

1. Educational achievement – links to social class, ethnicity, gender, region
2. “British values” / “Prevent” Strategy
3. Is the education system “feminised”?
4. Why has the government dropped the plan to expand grammar schools?
5. Funding of schools – effects of cuts?
6. Access to “elite” universities

MEDIA

1. Representations of gender/social class/ disability/ethnicity/age/sexuality
2. The influence of the popular press – declining?
3. Social media /New Media – “echo chamber”/“fake news” – or challenge to “mainstream media”?

CRIME AND DEVIANCE

1. How social class/gender/ethnicity/age are linked to crime
2. Which crimes are focussed upon by the media?
3. Does prison work?
4. Cyber crime
5. The role of the police

USEFUL SOURCES

1. Broadcast news – e.g., BBC news; Newsnight; Channel 4 News; Radio 4: – “Today” programme; PM
Twitter/Facebook – sources of news. Compare the coverage of key stories using a range of media sources
2. Newspapers: Compare the coverage of key stories in “broadsheet” (e.g., The Guardian/The Daily Telegraph and “tabloid” newspapers (e.g., The Daily Mail/ The Sun).