

SOCIOLOGY: TOP TIPS FOR SUCCESS AT A LEVEL

Teacher Top Tips:

- Be pro-active - remember that you are ultimately the person in charge of your progress; people can support you, but you need to take responsibility. Make every lesson count: complete class tasks, home learning and extension tasks to the best of your ability.
- Ensure that you attend every lesson possible. If there is a valid reason for missing a lesson, ensure that you copy up notes and find out what was expected from you in terms of home learning. Workshops are available every Thursday throughout the year.
- Keep your notes organised - keep detailed, well presented notes and homeworks. Organise these carefully under clear headings to ensure that you can revise from them.
- Consolidate your notes and revise regularly - re-read your class notes weekly to consolidate your learning. Make revision notes throughout the year, especially study tables and key term glossaries.
- Feedback - remember to carefully read through and act upon feedback which you are given. Keep all of your feedback organised.
- Ask for support - Seek advice immediately if you don't understand a concept, perspective or study. Use your brain, book, buddy, board or boss to do this.
- Be resilient - it is ok to feel 'stuck' - this means that you are learning Do not think that giving up is the answer, this is just a hurdle which you need to tackle.
- Be confident with the exam structure - check that you understand how to structure answers and follow the suggested structure. Practise exam structure regularly. Know your PEEL and PEAD chains.
- Apply your knowledge regularly– try to think like a sociologist by noticing behaviour and using sociology to try to explain it.
- Improve your wider knowledge - improve your political, social and cultural knowledge. Complete wider reading by using suggested websites such as the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the Guardian, The Economic and Social Research Council and the Office for National Statistics. You could also watch TV programmes such as Panorama and Question Time.

Student top tips:

- Remember that if you work hard, you can achieve.
- Keep well structured, organised notes.
- Revise from day 1 by going through your notes and revising them regularly.
- Make sure that you learn the required structure for the essays.
- Practise essay questions as much as possible.