Sociology A Level at King Ecgbert School

- Welcome to Sociology A Level. You will need to complete the following tasks (**1-6 are compulsory**) and bring them, plus your new starter questionnaire and course booklet to your first lesson in September.
- If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to email me: alee@ecgbert.sheffield.sch.uk
- AQA Sociology specification: http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192

The start of the course includes **'An introduction to sociology'.** You will learn a range of key concepts and theories.
Watch this video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnCJU6PaCio
Using the video record your understanding of 'What is sociology?'

Topic 1: Culture and Identity. We will study questions such as:
Does the UK have a distinct **culture**? How do we **learn the rules** of society? How do people define themselves in relation to **age, disability, ethnicity, gender, nationality, sexuality and social class**? Do we form our identity from **global** influences?
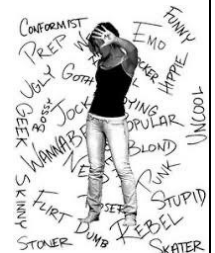
Task 1:

1. Watch this: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vW2nFd3i2bo

2. Define the term **culture**

3. Define the term **socialisation**

4. Define the term **identity**

5. Draw a picture of yourself and label it. What labels do you choose? E.g. Student, musician

Topic 2: Education. We will study questions such as: What is the **purpose** of the education system? Why do exam results vary depending on **social class, gender and ethnicity**? What processes affect **relationships** in schools? How **do government policies** impact the education system? What is the impact of **globalization**?

Task 2:

1. Explain the difference between:
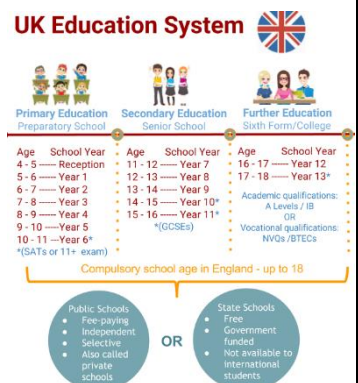
    a) a **grammar** school

    b) a **private** school

    c) a **comprehensive** school

2. Apart from the ability to pass exams, make a list of **what else you have gained** from attending school.

3. What factors enable students to achieve **good exam results** in schools?

4. Research – what is a **recent change** that has occurred in education? You can find out about a government policy change in primary, secondary or university provision to exams, curriculum, teacher training, for example.

Topic 3: Research Methods: We will study questions such as: what **methods** are used by sociologists use to study groups in society? What does it mean by **primary and secondary** methods?

Task 3:

Visit this website to read about the research methods used and answer the questions below:
https://revisesociology.com/2016/08/01/methods-words/

1. What is the difference between **qualitative** and **quantitative** data?

2. What is a **longitudinal** study?

3. What does a **representative** sample mean?

4. What does the term **reliability** mean?

5. What does the term **validity** mean?

6. **Social Movements** are relevant to sociology as they can enable **social change.**
    Watch this: https://youtu.be/Tllu-J9QTgw

    Research a 'social movement'. Describe the features of it, its oppression or support, formation, accomplishments (or downfall), and its impact on society at large. Here are some movements to get you started: Anti-Vaccination / Disability / Rights / Fair Trade / Me Too / Black Lives Matter

Topic 4: Theory and Methods: We will study questions such as: What are the different theoretical perspectives in sociology? Is sociology a science? Can sociology inform social policy?

Task 4:

1. Watch the video on YouTube which introduces some key sociological theorists:
    https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32KG_ba_NJc

    What does the video **describe sociologists as being**?

    Go to the following websites and explain the main sociological theories below:

2. **Marxism:** https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/topics/marxism

3. **Feminism:** https://www.tutor2u.net/politics/reference/feminism-gender-stereotypes

4. **Functionalism:** https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/topics/functionalism

5. **Social Action theory:** https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/topics/social-action-theory

Topic 5: Crime and Deviance We will study questions such as: **Why do people commit crime**? **Who** is more likely to commit crime based on ethnicity, gender and social class? How has **globalization** impacted criminal behaviour, is damaging the environment a crime? How can crime be prevented?

Task 5:

1. Explain the difference between the definition of a **crime** and the definition of **deviance**.

2. Write down the reasons that an individual may **decide to commit a crime**.

3. There are different approaches to solving crime, some argue we need more police on the street whilst others call for preventive measures in healthcare and education. This has been in the news recently with some groups calling to 'defund the police'. Read this article:
   https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jun/05/defunding-the-police-us-what-does-it-mean

   a. Explain what the term **'defund the police'** means.

   b. Explain why some believe this will **decrease crime.**

   c. Explain why some believe this will **increase crime.**

Topic 6: Media We will study questions such as: Who owns and controls the media? How is news chosen? How does the media represent social groups based on age, social class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and disability? How do audiences respond to media messages?

Task 6:

1. Choose a news article, TV show, social media video to consume and link to sociological concepts. You can choose your own media or select something from the suggested list below.

Media content chosen:

2. Describe which audience you think it is aimed at.

3. Whose perspective is the content from?
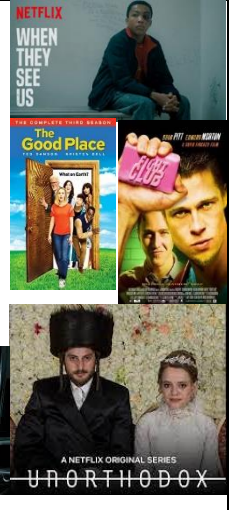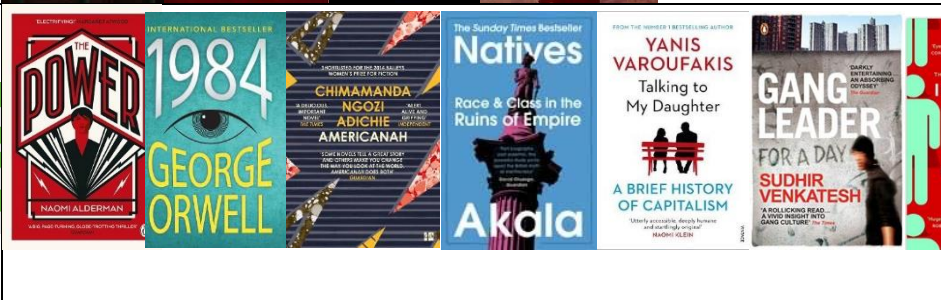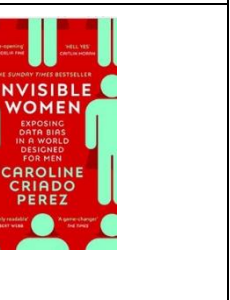
4. Are there any stereotypes featured?
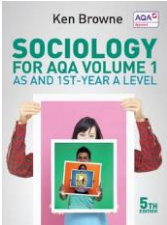
5. How does it link to sociology?

Read/Follow/Watch List: Use these lists to inspire you to see the world in a different way.

Edit your social media to be informative and enlightening. Find out what is going on in the world through the news. Use your time to read some books and watch films or series that enable you to question as well as be entertained.

Optional task 1: Create a report or poster about one or more of the contents below. You could pick a theme such as inequality, media effects or globalisation.

Optional Task 2: Research the debate question(s) and present the arguments in any way you choose.

What to watch:	• https://freedomtoteach.collins.co.uk/influential-inspirational-films-sociology-students/ • https://www.thesociologyteacher.com/single-post/2018/03/30/top-8-netflix-shows-you-need-to-watch-and-count-as-sociology-revision-and-further-reading	
What to read:		
Who to follow on social media:	• https://www.instagram.com/sociologykes/ • https://www.instagram.com/thesociologyguy/ • https://www.instagram.com/thesociologyteacher/ • https://www.instagram.com/simplepolitics/ • https://www.instagram.com/mrsociologist209/ • https://www.instagram.com/allsociology/	

Websites to surf	- https://politybooks.com/brownevol1/ - www.revisesociology.com - www.senecalearning.com - http://www.sociology.org.uk - https://www.sociologystuff.com/ - https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology
News to follow	- https://www.theguardian.com/uk - https://www.bbc.co.uk/ - https://www.vox.com/ - https://www.channel4.com/news/
Podcasts to listen to	- https://guiltyfeminist.com 'The guilty feminist' - https://www.georgethepoet.com 'Have you heard George's podcast' - https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07r5zg0 'What makes us human' - https://www.channel4.com/news/topic/ways-to-change-the-world 'Ways to change the world'
Additional reading: Fiction Books	1984 – George Orwell - Animal farm – George Orwell - Power – Naomi Alderman - High society – Ben Elton - The Trial – Franz Kafka - Hunger games (trilogy) – Suzanne Collins - Americanah – Chimamanada Ngozi Adichie - To kill a mockingbird – Harper Lee - Eleanor Oliphant is completely fine – Gail Honeymen - Vox – Christina Dalcher - Of Mice and Men – John Steinbeck - The Handmaid's Tale – Margaret Atwood - We Need to Talk About Kevin – Lionel Shriver - Generation X – Douglas Coupland - A thousand splendid suns - Khalid Hosseini - Brave New Word – Aldous Huxley The Handmaid's Tale – Margaret Atwood
Additional reading: Factual Books	- Natives – Akala - The Good Immigrant – Nikesh Shukla - Everyday sexism – Laura Bates - Freakonomics - Stephen J. Dubner and Steven Levitt - Invisible women – Caroline Criado Perez - The Guilty Feminist – Deborah Francis-White - Chavs:– Owen Jones - The Establishment– Owen Jones - A Brief History of Capitalism – Yanis Varoufakis - Stupid white men – Michael Moore - Folk Devils and Moral Panics – Stanley Cohen - A Glasgow Gang Observed – Patrick James - Gang Leader for A Day – Sudhir Venkatesh - A Glasgow gang observed – James Patrick