

Welcome to Sociology

Thank you for your interest in Sociology. Sociology is one of the biggest subjects and we would like to think that is due to its relevance in today's ever-changing society. Our pass rate at AS and A2 is well above the national average. This is because of our two very experienced lecturers who teach the subject and their passion to help and allow students to succeed. Therefore, the team holds a very high expectation of students and demands much from them. Sociology is an important course that university's look for as it contains a research methods component and allows students to question their surroundings critically. You will hopefully be a member of our team and we look forward to seeing you at the start of the academic year in 2020.

Before then, however, you have two tasks to complete. Failure to complete these tasks for your FIRST lesson WILL result in you being given a pink card transferring you to another course. Should you have any questions about this material, please email matthew.banner@sandwell.ac.uk or steven.pritchard@sandwell.ac.uk.

Task 1: Read the person specification (this is who we are looking for). Make sure you know our expectations, want to be a member and match our requirements.

Person specification:

1. Highly organised (able to create, keep organised their work, passing folder assessments).
2. Enjoys reading books and keeping up to date with the news especially politics.
3. Enjoys writing. Sociology is an essay based subject and you should enjoy and be confident in writing long answers.
4. Hard work. Sociology contains LOTS of theorists and perspectives. You should be able to memorise these as well as keywords and will be tested on them. The only way to succeed at this is hard work and a good memory.
5. Good attendance. Should your attendance fall below 85%. You could be placed on the red list meaning that you might not progress to A2 no matter what your grade.
6. Passion. You should know what Sociology is and what you want from it. We will explore the impact of the media, the education system etc. and if you know you're not going to enjoy the subject or your heart isn't really in it, choose another course and make the most of your education.
7. Independent. College isn't high school. You will be given projects to complete throughout the year and you must make sure these are complete and on time. You have plenty of free periods and should use these wisely. This is your education – time to take control of your learning.

Task 2: Answer the questions below.

1. Explore what primary and secondary socialisation is making a note of what the differences are.
2. Explore what Marxist is (in both a general and sociological perspective).
3. Explore what Feminism is (focus on the different types and what they are).
4. Explore what Functionalism is (focussing on the organic analogy).
5. Explore what Postmodernism is.
6. Explore what the New Right is.
7. Explore what Neo-Marxism is.

Research point 1 should come to a small paragraph.

Research points 2 – 7 should be a minimum of 1 page each. Meaning we expect around 7 to 8 pages when you return. Make sure your points are clearly labelled so we can check them. Make it easy for us. Do not use a font bigger than 12 or a title bigger than 16. Do not copy and paste from the internet. We will know. We want to see how you write. Remember, cheating now sets you up to fail later.

Remember try not to be general in your research and make everything sociology specific. It is okay if you don't understand everything you have researched – we will be going through it to support you. Again, should you have any questions, please email me. Other than that, thank you for taking an interest in Sociology and we look forward to having you on our team.

Good luck in your GCSEs.

