



ST CHRISTOPHER'S SIXTH FORM

SOCIOLOGY

BRIDGING UNIT



Sociology

Hello and a warm welcome from the Sociology Department at St Christopher's Sixth Form.

About the course

Sociology is the study of human social relationships and institutions. Sociology's subject matter is diverse, ranging from crime to religion, from the family to the state, from the divisions of race and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture, and from social stability to radical change in whole societies. Unifying the study of these diverse subjects of study is sociology's purpose of understanding how human action and consciousness both shape and are shaped by surrounding cultural and social structures.

The exam board we use is AQA, you can view the specification using the link below:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/a-level/sociology-7192/specification/specification-at-a-glance>

As you will see from the link, the compulsory units are:

- Education
- Methods in Context
- Theory & Methods
- Crime & Deviance

There are a number of optional topics, however, the ones we cover here at St Christopher's are:

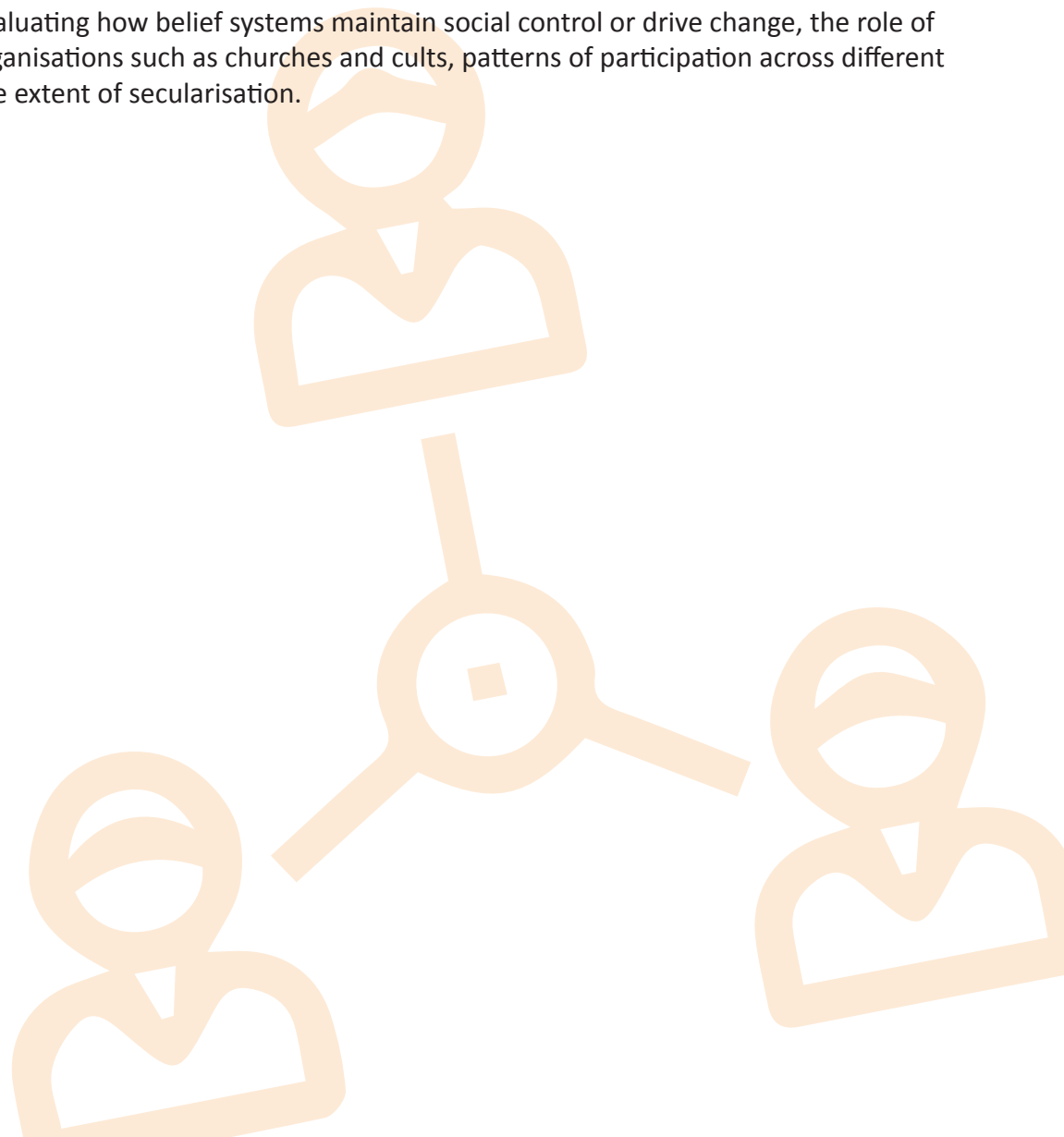
- Families and Households
- Beliefs in Society

In Year 12 you will study:

- **Families and Households:** How the family operates as a key social institution, analysing shifting family structures, changing gender roles within the household, the social construction of childhood, the impact of state policies, and wider demographic trends.
- **Education:** The role of education in society, differential achievement (based on class, gender, and ethnicity), school processes, and educational policies.
- **Research Methods:** How sociologists design studies and collect data to investigate society.
- **Methods in Context:** Applying research methods specifically to studying schools.

In Year you will study 13:

- **Theory:** Examining the various perspectives—such as Functionalism, Marxism, Feminism, and Social Action theory—that attempt to explain how society is structured, why social inequalities exist, and how human behaviour is shaped.
- **Crime and Deviance:** Social and legal definitions of crime, patterns of offending based on class, gender, and ethnicity, as well as the societal responses to it, such as policing, surveillance, and punishment.
- **Beliefs in Society:** Evaluating how belief systems maintain social control or drive change, the role of different religious organisations such as churches and cults, patterns of participation across different social groups, and the extent of secularisation.



Bridging Unit

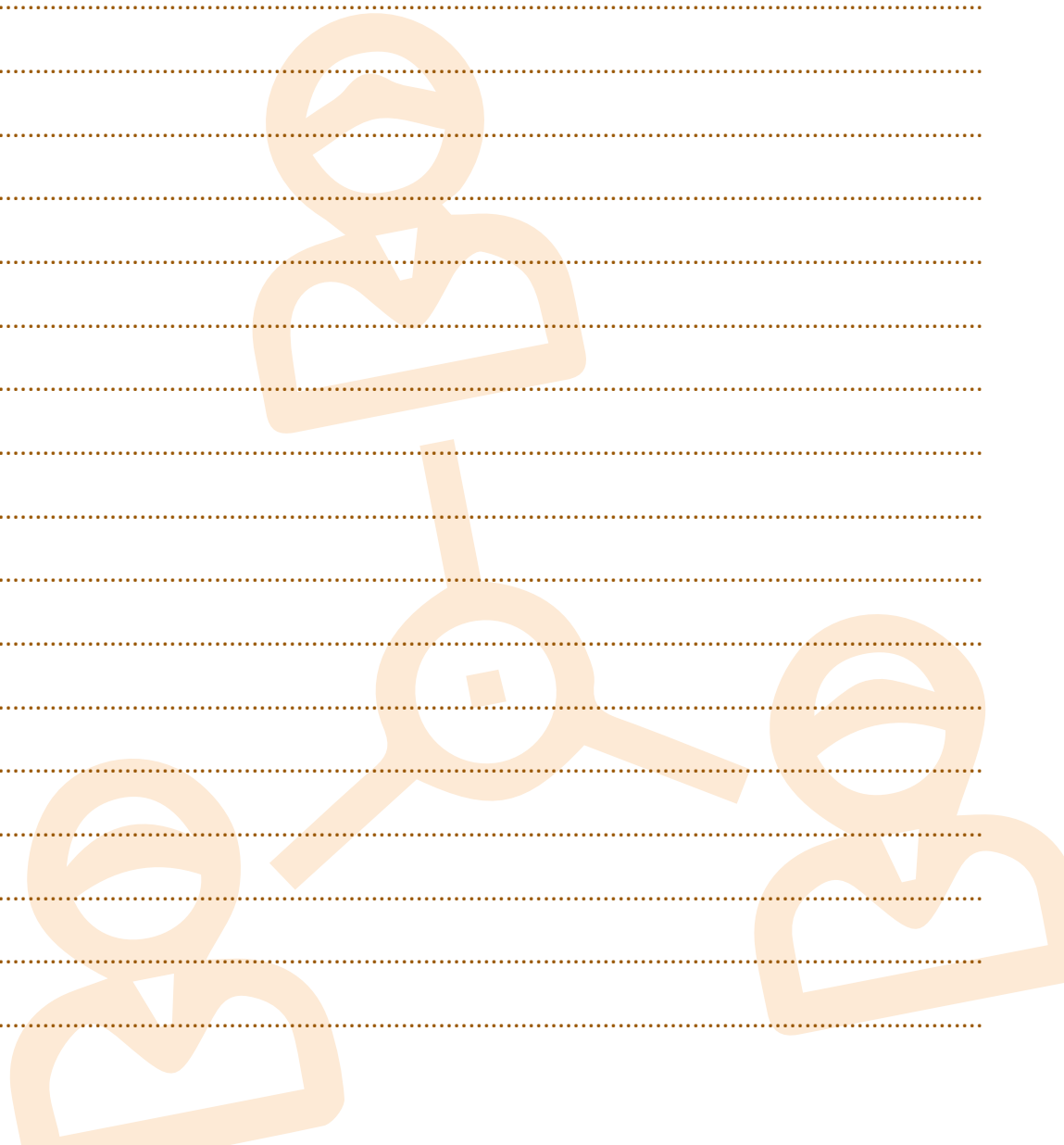
Please complete the following task before starting the course. This will help to prepare to prepare for the rigours of studying Sociology at A-level.

It's important as a sociologist to keep up with the news, as you need to be applying and relating what we learn in class to what is going on in society. Your task is to research key media news stories in recent times (for example the last 3-5 years), for the four topic areas shown below. These form the basis of the A-Level course.

1. Crime
2. Religion
3. Family
4. Education

Make sure you explain the news stories in your own words and explain the effect they have had on society. Use credible on-line news sources, such as the BBC, The Guardian, The Independent and The Observer. Avoid tabloid news sources (the Daily Mail, The Mirror etc.) or Wikipedia please.

Crime

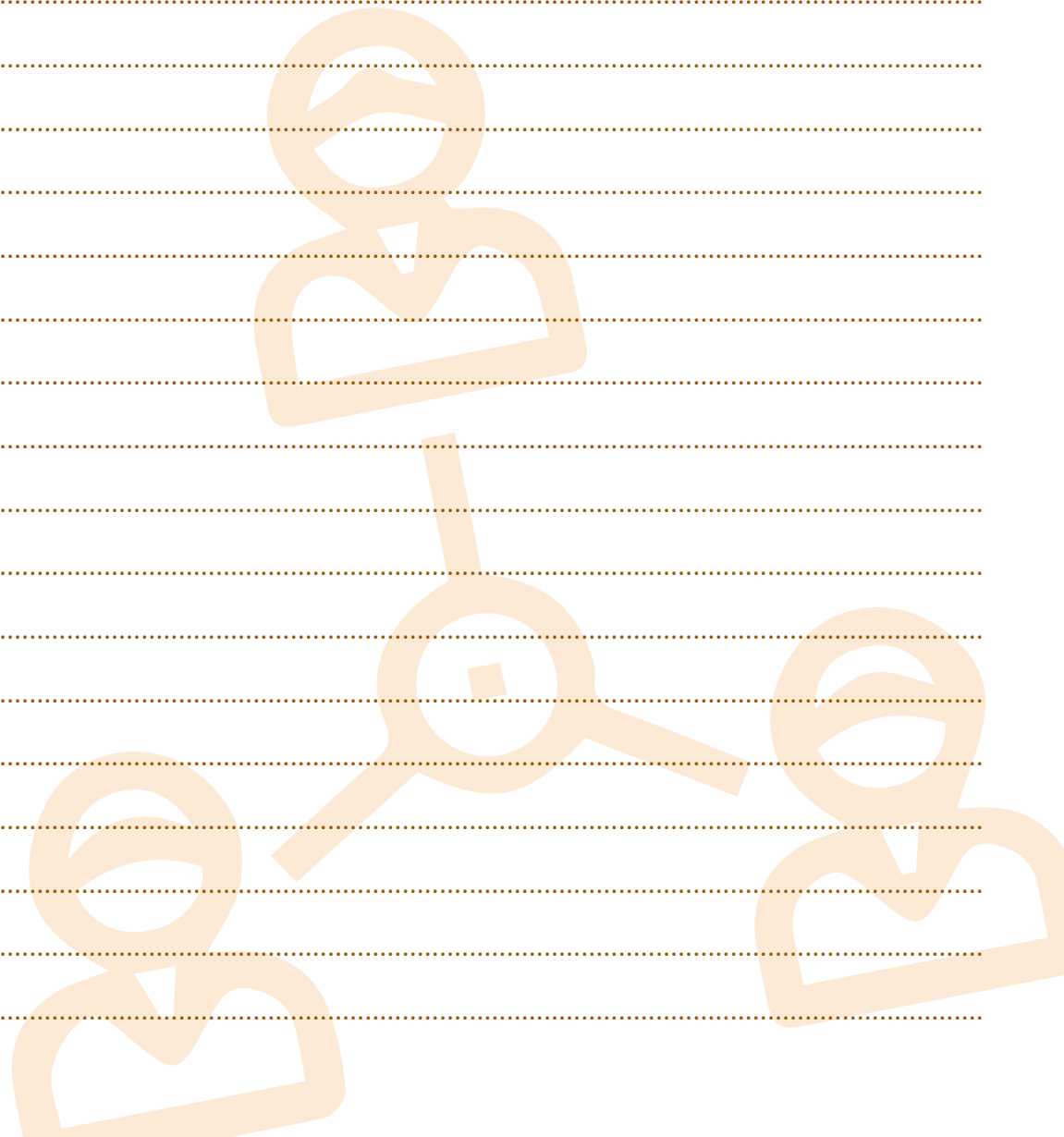


Sociology

Religion

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Family



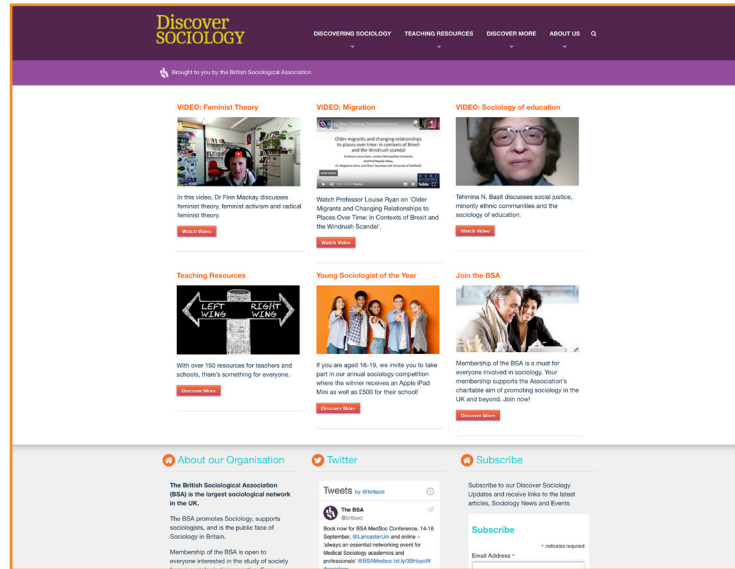
Sociology

Education

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Wider reading

This website is a great starting point and full of lots of brilliant sociological information.



- <http://www.discoversociology.co.uk/>
- http://www.discoversociology.co.uk/what_is_sociology
- http://www.discoversociology.co.uk/BSA_Resources/Sociology-in-Action

Also, I recommend some additional reading from the followings:

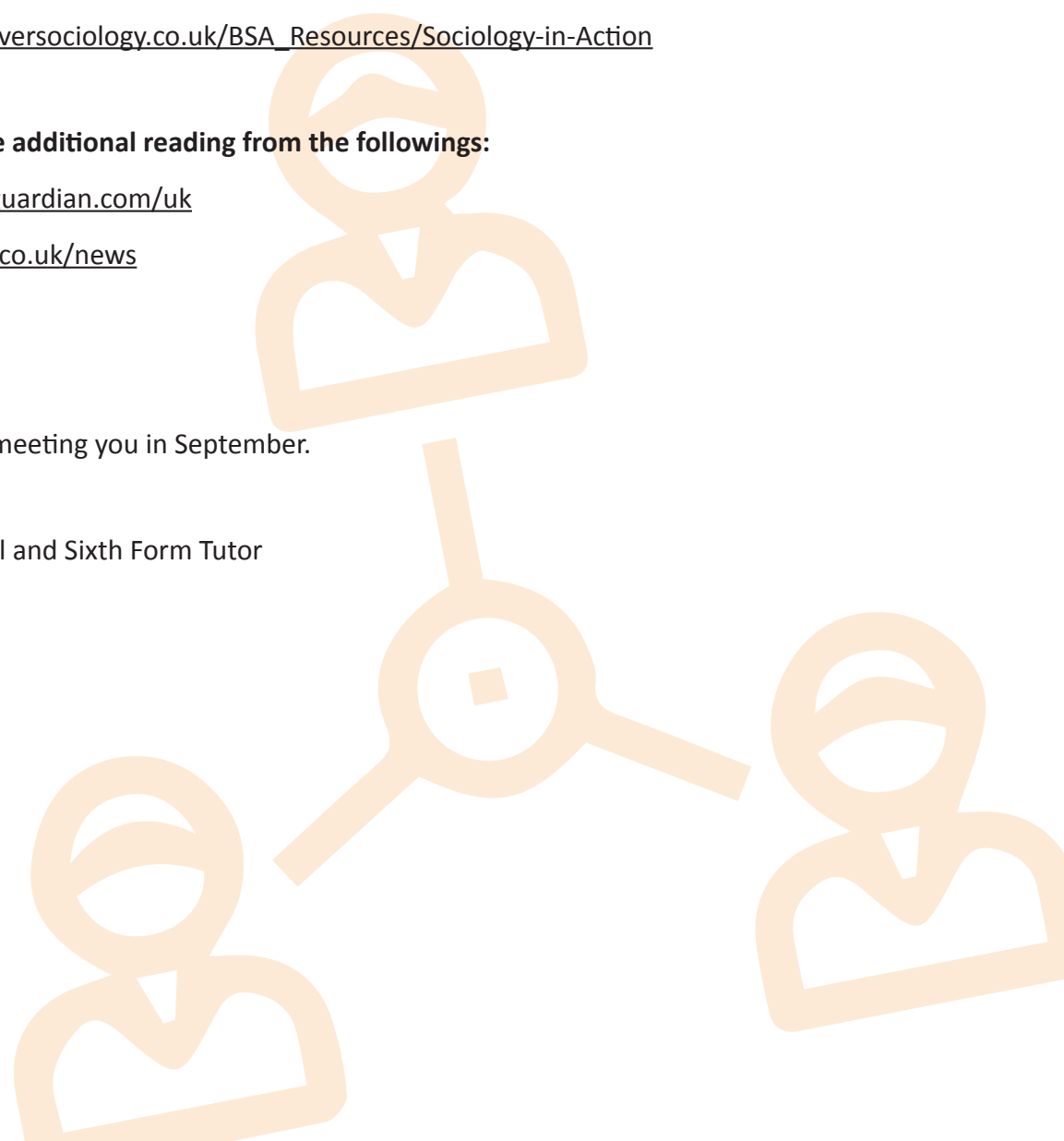
- <https://www.theguardian.com/uk>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

Enjoy the tasks.

I am looking forward to meeting you in September.

Miss Mulla

Head of Sociology A-level and Sixth Form Tutor





**“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord,
“plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.”**

Jeremiah 29:11

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