

KS5 Sociology

Super Curriculum

Welcome to the Sociology Super Curriculum!

Below, you'll discover a variety of activities designed to challenge and extend your learning beyond the classroom curriculum.

Read



1. **'Chavs' by Owen Jones** - Explores media representation of working-class people and moral panics around class
2. **'The Spirit Level' by Wilkinson & Pickett** - Essential for understanding inequality's relationship with crime rates
3. **'Flat Earth News' by Nick Davies** - Investigative journalist's critique of modern news media and 'churnalism'
4. **'The Lucifer Effect' by Philip Zimbardo** - Understanding conformity, obedience and situational factors in deviance
5. **'Policing the Crisis' by Stuart Hall et al.** - Classic Neo-Marxist text on moral panics, mugging and media representation
6. **'Folk Devils and Moral Panics' by Stanley Cohen** - The original and essential text on moral panics
7. **British Journal of Sociology articles** - Academic journal with accessible articles on current sociological research
8. **The Guardian 'Society' section** - Weekly reading to connect theory to current events
9. **'Punished' by Victor Rios** - Ethnographic study of criminalisation of Latino and Black youth in Oakland
10. **'The Sociology Book' (DK Big Ideas)** - Visual guide to key sociologists and theories for revision and context

Watch



1. **The Social Dilemma (Netflix)** - Documentary exploring how social media companies manipulate users, relevant for media ownership, agenda-setting and moral panics
2. **13th (Netflix)** - Ava DuVernay's documentary on mass incarceration in the USA, excellent for understanding institutional racism and labelling theory
3. **Inside the Criminal Mind (Netflix series)** - Explores different types of crime and criminal behaviour, useful for crime theories and case studies
4. **News broadcasts from different outlets** - Compare BBC, Sky News, Channel 4 News coverage of the same story to understand media bias and representation
5. **When They See Us (Netflix)** - Drama-documentary about the Central Park Five, brilliant for understanding labelling, moral panics and institutional racism
6. **Stacey Dooley Investigates (BBC)** - Various episodes on crime, gangs and social issues with excellent ethnographic-style research
7. **The Murder Trial (Channel 4)** - Reality courtroom series showing jury deliberations, fascinating for understanding criminal justice process
8. **Panorama episodes on crime and media** - Current affairs investigations relevant to specification topics
9. **Louis Theroux documentaries** - Particularly episodes on gangs, crime and extremism for observational research examples
10. **Make Me Famous (2020)** - Documentary about drill music and knife crime, relevant for youth crime and media moral panics

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Listen

1. **Thinking Allowed (BBC Radio 4)** - Weekly sociology programme discussing recent research, hosted by Laurie Taylor
2. **The Guilty Feminist podcast** - Episodes on representation, intersectionality and media portrayals of women
3. **Seriously podcast (BBC Sounds)** - Documentary series often covering crime and social issues
4. **The Crime Analyst podcast** - Detailed exploration of criminal cases with criminological analysis
5. **More or Less (BBC Radio 4)** - Statistical analysis of news stories, excellent for evaluating media claims
6. **The Media Show (BBC Radio 4)** - Weekly discussion of current media issues, ownership and regulation
7. **Sociology at Surrey podcast** - University-level discussions of sociological concepts and research
8. **Criminal (podcast)** - Stories about crime, exploring different perspectives on deviance
9. **The News Agents podcast** - Critical discussion of how news is made and presented
10. **Desert Island Discs** - When guests discuss formative experiences, useful for socialisation and identity discussions

Do

1. **Content analysis of newspaper coverage** - Choose a crime story and compare how different papers report it (Daily Mail vs Guardian)
2. **Media diary for one week** - Log all media consumption and reflect on representation patterns you notice
3. **Visit the British Library sociology collection** - Explore historical and contemporary sociological texts
4. **Attend university sociology taster lectures** - Many universities offer open lectures (e.g., LSE public events)
5. **Conduct a small-scale survey** - Design and carry out research on media consumption or attitudes to crime in your community
6. **Join or start a debate society** - Develop skills in constructing sociological arguments
7. **Shadow a criminal justice professional** - Court observations are public, or arrange visits through school
8. **Create a theory comparison table** - Systematically compare how different theories explain the same social phenomena
9. **Follow sociologists on social media** - Twitter/X accounts like @TheSociologyGuy, @OxfordSociology for current debates
10. **Volunteer with a relevant charity** - Organisations working with youth crime prevention, or media literacy