

KS5 Sociology – Recommended Reading

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| Book Title | Author | Description |
| The McDonaldization of Society: Into the Digital Age | George Ritzer | The 8th version of the classic book ‘The McDonaldization of Society’, this book links theory to contemporary life in a globalised world showing how ‘McDonaldisation’s’ principles apply to other settings especially in areas of consumption and globalisation including in the digital world. |
| Chavs: The Demonization of the Working Class | Owen Jones | Owen Jones explores how the working class has gone from ‘salt of the earth’ to ‘scum of the earth’, exposing the ignorance and prejudice at the heart of the chav stereotype which is used to avoid engagement with social and economic problems and used to justify widening inequality. |
| The Spirit Level | Wilkinson and Pickett | Based on years of research, this book provides hard evidence to show how almost everything from life expectancy to mental illness is affected not by how wealthy a society is, but how equal it is. |
| Living Dolls: The Return of Sexism | Natasha Walter | Drawing on a wealth of research and interviews, this book takes a fresh (2011) look at women and girls and how they experience sexism and femininity. |
| The Establishment: And how they get away with it | Owen Jones | Owen Jones exposes the links between Westminster and the newsrooms, boardrooms and trading rooms of Fleet Street and the City and shows how in claiming to work on our behalf the people at the top are doing precisely the opposite. |
| Media Studies: Theories and Approaches | Dan Laughey | This book covers the main features of global media corporations, and approaches to the study of media effects, consumer power, celebrity, journalism and new media. From surveillance to simulation, genre to gender, political economy to the postmodern, the reader will be guided through a matrix of intellectual endeavour on all media matters. |
| Invisible Women: Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men | Caroline Criado Perez | Caroline Criado Perez brings together for the first time an impressive range of case studies, stories and new research from across the world that illustrate the hidden ways in which women are forgotten, and the profound impact this has on us all. |
| Everyday Sexism | Laura Bates | After experiencing a series of escalating sexist incidents, Laura Bates started the ‘everyday sexism project’ and has written about the wide range of stories from across the world that were reported in this social media research. |
| Natives: Race and Class in the Ruins of Empire | Akala | Covering areas such as the police, education, identity, politics, sexual objectification and the far right, Native discusses British denial and squeamishness when it comes to confronting issues of race and class and the legacy of Britain’s racialized empire. |
| Eve Was Shamed: How British Justice is Failing Women | Helena Kennedy | Helena Kennedy forensically examines the pressing new evidence that women are still being discriminated against throughout the legal system, from the High Court to female prisons |
| Misjustice: How British Law is Failing Women | Helena Kennedy | Another book by Helena Kennedy examining the evidence that women are being discriminated against when it comes to the law. |
| The New Jim Crow | Michelle Alexander | This book looks at how the mass incarceration of a disproportionate number of black men amounts to a devastating system of racial control. This is a terrifying reality that exists in the UK as much as in the US. |
| The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness | Michelle Alexander | The original book helped inspire the creation of the Marshall Project and the Art for Justice Fund, won numerous prizes and spent nearly 250 weeks on the New York Times bestseller list. The new edition discusses the impact the book has had on the state of the criminal justice movement today. |
| Gang Leader for a Day | Sudhir Venkatesh | Venkatesh describes his time living with gangs on the Southside of Chicago and answers the question ‘What’s it like to live in hell?’ |
| Sociology Review | Hodder Education | Sociology Review provides articles by experts in the field written specifically for A-level students, up-to-date discussion of research, and support for examination and maths skills. |
| On the Run: Fugitive Life in an American City | Alice Goffman | Forty years in, the War on Drugs has done almost nothing to prevent drugs from being sold or used, but it has nonetheless created a little-known surveillance state in America’s most disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Alice Goffman’s close observations and stories reveal the effects of this pervasive policing. |
| The Hidden Persuaders | Vance Packard | Vance Parkard’s discussion of how modern advertising attempts to control our thoughts and desires in order to make us buy the products it produces. |
| Flat Earth News | Nick Davies | Nick Davies’ expose on what really goes on behind the scenes in journalism, from a prestigious newspaper that allowed intelligence agencies to plant fiction in its columns, to the newsroom that routinely rejected stories due to racial bias, to the papers that accept cash bribes. |
| 23 Things They Don’t Tell You About Capitalism | Ha Joon Chang | Ha-Joon Chang destroys the biggest myths of our times and shows us an alternative view of the world, including: There's no such thing as a 'free' market, Globalization isn't making the world richer and we don't live in a digital world - the washing machine has changed lives more than the internet |
| Hegemony or Survival: America’s Quest for Global Dominance | Noam Chomsky | Noam Chomsky, the world's foremost intellectual activist, presents an irrefutable analysis of America's pursuit of total domination and the catastrophic consequences that are sure to follow. |
| Risk Society: Towards a New Modernity | Ulrich Beck | This panoramic analysis of the condition of Western societies has been hailed as a classic. Underpinning the analysis is the notion of the ′risk society′. The changing nature of society′s relation to production and distribution is related to the environmental impact as a totalizing, globalizing economy based on scientific and technical knowledge becomes more central to social organization and social conflict. |