

Introductory pack for PGCE Social Science 2025-26

***Those of you registered for the PGCE RE and Social Science – Please also see the Religious Education section for information and Knowledge Audit.**

Welcome to the PGCE Social Science course at the University of Leicester. This pack of information has been created to help you to prepare thoroughly for the beginning of the course. The aim of this course is to provide an informative, supportive, and inclusive environment for each individual to develop into a confident, reflective and highly knowledgeable teaching professional, capable of making a full contribution to life of a UK secondary school. The aim is also to offer a challenging, yet engaging programme of study that will provide academic rigour and foundations for further study at master's level and beyond. If you have any questions please contact Kerry Onyejekwe – Social Science Lead on ko98@leicester.ac.uk

The course provides you with opportunities to develop your expertise in line with our curriculum. We have adopted the concepts of Knowing, Doing and Becoming (Craig, 2018) as a way to articulate the complex process of integrating theory and practice. Our curriculum is explained further in the main PGCE Handbook which you will have access to at the beginning of the course. The aims of the Secondary curriculum underpin all that we do in the University and in Partnership with the schools that you will teach in. The ITT Core Content Framework ([Initial teacher training \(ITT\): core content framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/initial-teacher-training-core-content-framework)) – as with the Early Career Framework – are integral to our curriculum which goes above and beyond to support your development. The ultimate criteria for passing the PGCE course are the Teacher's Standards ([Teachers' standards - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teachers-standards)) and these are communicated through the ITT Core Content Framework which makes up the foundations of our ambitious curriculum.

So that you feel prepared when you start the course there are a number of tasks that we would like you to engage in;

TASK 1. Subject Knowledge Audit

Developing your subject knowledge is key to area E) Curriculum and the CCF priority area 3 Subject and Curriculum

A subject audit has been included in your pack. This is a summary of the subject areas included in many GCSE and A level specifications for Sociology and Psychology. The subject audit will help you to chart the progress of your subject knowledge throughout the course.

Please complete the Pre-PGCE column as soon as possible so that you can identify your particular subject knowledge needs before beginning the course. The options range from C for confident knowledge and N for no knowledge in this area. There is also a space for you to comment on where your knowledge comes from e.g. a degree module, from studying AS Psychology or observing a KS4 Sociology lesson during some voluntary work experience. This will be discussed at your first tutorial session with your University Tutor and it can be updated as you progress throughout the course.

TASK 2. Subject Knowledge and Pedagogy Development Website

Developing your subject knowledge is key to area E) Curriculum and the CCF priority area 3 Subject and Curriculum

Your subject knowledge audit should help you to identify some areas of your subject that you are unfamiliar with or less confident about. Many of you have already begun researching areas of your subject knowledge or have been asked to do this as a condition of your acceptance on to the course. Becoming an effective teacher however is not just about having excellent subject knowledge. Consider what level of knowledge would be needed for

different year groups. As you research your subject it would be useful for you to collect relevant resources and consider how you could use both knowledge and resources to teach effective lessons and activities.

We would like you to create your own website using weebly.com (or any other method that can be shared with tutors and peers e.g. power point, google slides, Prezi) to evidence your progression in this area. This is a free service (although more complex tools will be offered to you at a cost). An example of the kinds of pages you could create can be accessed via <http://subjectaudit2.weebly.com> which includes examples from Social Science. The page on this website:

- Identify a topic (**one that you are not familiar with**)
- Identify what needs to be covered on the topic (i.e. from the GCSE or A level specifications)
- Include information about the subject knowledge needed as well as pedagogical or teaching ideas of how the topic could be taught
- Include resources/images that may help to develop subject knowledge or that may help to teach the topic.

There are also additional suggestions you may want to use e.g. links to exam papers, specifications, key terminology or current affairs pages.

Please do not copy and paste from websites or simply copy out the details of the exam specifications – you need to research the topic **thoroughly** and develop a good understanding of key terminology and issues.

These websites can be accessed by anybody online so it is suggested that you do not mention the university or put any personal details on them to protect your anonymity.

PLEASE NOTE: The development of relevant subject knowledge is the responsibility of the student as limited time can be spent on this during the PGCE course itself.

You should complete between 3-5 pages for your website/alternative before starting the course and your tutor will discuss additional subject knowledge targets for the rest of the course with you.

Do your best – this does not have to be publication perfect just a demonstration that you have been engaging with subject knowledge development and will continue to do so throughout your PGCE.

Key Terminology for Social Science (this is not an exhaustive list)

Do you know what these terms mean? How are these useful in teaching about the key Social Science concepts? How could you explain these terms to an average 14 or 18 years old?

Gender role socialisation	Cultural Capital	Circadian Rhythms	Arithmetic Mean
Functional pre-requisites	Subcultural Theory	The Multi-store model	A two tailed hypothesis
Capitalism	Globalisation	Cultural Relativism	Demand Characteristics
Owners of the means of production	Secularisation	The Stroop Effect	Neurotransmitters
Conjugal Roles	Repeated Measures Design	Privation	Freud

Research the national curriculum, exam boards, specifications and exam papers.

AQA – GCSE and A level Sociology, Psychology (www.aqa.org.uk)

OCR – GCSE and A level Sociology, Cambridge Nationals/Technical in Health & Social Care (www.ocr.org.uk)

EDEXCEL –GCSE and A level Psychology, BTEC Health & Social Care

(<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html>)

WJEC – GCSE and A level Sociology, Psychology, Level 3 Criminology (<http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/>)

TASK 3: Reading

- a) It would also be useful for you to read any of the following texts in preparation for starting the course. Books on teaching Sociology are limited and somewhat outdated. However, read critically and we will discuss issues in our university sessions. There is no requirement to buy these books as chapters are available online and they can be accessed in the University Library when the course starts (you may already have access if you are a university of Leicester student).

Gajic, D. & McGinty, J. (2022) *Learning to Teach Psychology in the Secondary School: A Companion to School Experience*. 1st Eds. London: Routledge.

***Read Chapter 1: Becoming a Psychology Teacher.**

Jones, A.B. (2017) *Teaching sociology successfully: a practical guide to planning and delivering outstanding lessons*. London: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.

***Read Chapter 1: Why Teach Sociology & Chapter 2: Sociology in Schools.**

- b) Other useful resources

Organisations Chartered College of Teaching Home – chartered.college The Association for the Teaching of Psychology http://theatp.org/ https://www.bps.org.uk/member-networks/division-academics-researchers-and-teachers-psychology (BPS Division of Academics, Researchers, and Teachers in Psychology). British Sociological Association https://www.britsoc.co.uk/groups/special-interest-groups/teaching-group/ British Sociological Association Special Interest Groups https://www.britsoc.co.uk/groups/special-interest-groups/early-career-forum/teaching-resources/	There are a range of text books available for 11-18 year old Social Science students including AQA, OCR, WJEC, Pearson's, GDP Text books, Work books and Revision guides. Websites and Podcasts GCSE Psychology Revision Resources 9-1 Learndojo.org How to Revise for GCSE Psychology Quizlet GCSE and A Level Audio Study and Revision Guides Audiopi MASSOLIT – Short video lectures from the world's best academics for school teachers and students around the world.
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Please be ready to discuss with your tutor and your peers in the first week of the course.

- Your subject audit and subject website/ or alternative.
- Your initial ideas about the reading you have undertaken.