Reference materials

Teachers are encouraged to use a range of reference materials throughout the course of study.

Text and reference books

A wide variety of texts and reference books can be used in Study of Society. Book suppliers and publishers are able to provide information regarding current publications.

General sociology texts (recent and/or Australian)


- This American text is thoughtful in approach with recent relevant examples for a global audience. It contains a useful discussion of the sociological imagination.

Sociology: Place time and division, Beilharz, P & Hogan, T (eds) 2007, Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

- This is an Australian text with a unique approach to sociology. It has short chapters by a range of Australian sociologists and touches on the influences of history and geography as well the topics of class and gender. It also includes issues such as asylum seekers, incarceration and sexuality, which are outside general sociology text discussion.


- This text covers usual topics and issues but also discusses the sociological imagination. There is also some discussion of the idea of a history of the present (or genealogy).

Sociology: Australian connections, Jureidini, R & Poole, M (eds) 2003, Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest, NSW.

- This text has a traditional approach to sociology. Chapters are written by a range of Australian sociologists.

Criminological imagination


- This text examines the idea of the sociological imagination and applies it to issues of criminal justice.
Cultural studies

- This text is better suited to teachers. It develops the idea of the role of culture in inscribing bodily functions like walking. This idea was developed by Pierre Bourdieu into the notion of habitus.


- This text is written for an undergraduate audience. It offers a Foucaultian understanding of culture. It is influenced by Mauss, and offers a cultural dimension to the study of sociology and a different framework to discuss social issues. It provides provocative thoughts on ways to destabilise nature/nurture issues.

History of the present

- A text for teachers as it is aimed at university students and those doing postgrad research. It unpacks the ways in which history can be understood while managing our own social/historical/cultural baggage. It questions current taken-for-granted ways of understanding.

Websites
Many websites can be used to enhance a course of study in Study of Society, and these often include useful resources and links. Some key terms to search would be:

- Equity
- Social change
- Social justice
- Sociological imagination.

Newspaper reports
Many newspapers carry regular pages, columns and features about Study of Society. Community newspapers can be a particularly useful source for local information. The compilation of news files on particular topics can broaden the students’ knowledge base and provide a valuable source of material for developing assessment instruments.

Periodicals
Journals and periodicals provide current and relevant information. Many journals and periodicals are now exclusively published online.

School librarians should be able to help identify and locate other useful journals and periodicals.

Organisation and community resources
A variety of government and community organisations can provide expertise, advice, resources and information to assist in constructing and implementing a course in Study of Society.