

Year 11 into 12 Sociology preparation work

Welcome to Sociology! The following activities are designed to prepare you for studying A Level Sociology at A level. This is a completely new subject for you and everyone that studies it, so getting a head start will be really helpful!

Work through the tasks and keep the notes somewhere safe, they will be helpful in year 12 and 13!



The study of the world around us

We follow the AQA specification and study the following topics at A Level:

Topic	Year covered
Education	Year 12
Families and Households	Year 12
Beliefs in Society	Year 13
Crime and Deviance	Year 13
Sociological Theory and Research Methods	Year 12/13

Task 1: What is Society?

The social world is changing. Some argue it is growing; others say it is shrinking. The important point is that society does not remain static over time; it constantly changes - through decades, centuries; and across countries, societies. Answer the following questions:

- Give 3 different ways society has changed over the last 100yrs - think about the different areas of social life and work.
- Why has society changed? Why are societies different?
- Research the 3 main political parties - Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrats: What are their main ideas? How are they different?

<https://www.parliament.uk/about/mps-and-lords/members/parties/>

<http://simplepolitics.co.uk/questions-and-answers/who-are-the-parties-and-what-do-they-stand-for>

Task 2: What is Sociology?

Watch the video clip on YouTube: What is Sociology? Crash Course Sociology <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnCJU6PaCio> and make notes on what you understand about Sociology.

Find the definitions for the following key sociological terms:

- Socialisation (primary socialisation and secondary socialisation)
- Norms
- Values
- Beliefs
- Culture
- Social Class
- Gender
- Ethnicity

Task 3: What is the History of Education in the UK?

Research the History of Education in the UK and answer the following questions:

- When did education become compulsory in the UK?
- Before education became compulsory, what were the differences in who used to receive schooling?
- What are the oldest and newest subjects?
- How have the methods of dealing with behaviour changed over time?
- What are some of the major changes that have taken place in UK education in the 20th and 21st centuries?
 - Consider the impact of the following policies:
 - Education Act 1944 (Tripartite System)
 - Comprehensives 1966
 - Education Reform Act 1988
- What do **you** think is the role and purpose of education?

<https://www.schoolsmith.co.uk/history-of-education/>

<https://getrevising.co.uk/revision-notes/social-policy-and-education>

Task 4: How are families different?

Find the definitions for the following key family terms:

- Monogamy
- Bigamy
- Polygamy
- Maternal
- Nuclear family

- Empty nest
- Empty shell marriage
- Extended family
- Kinship
- Cohabitation
- Beanpole family
- Cereal Packet Family

Task 5: How does the news help us understand education and families?

- Find the definition of *meritocracy*.
- Read the following news article <https://www.tes.com/news/few-one-20-born-poorest-areas-go-university> and answer the following questions:
 - Does this article suggest we live in a meritocracy?
 - Why is it important that 'poor' students go to university?
- Find 5 news articles that link to Education and/or Families. Download and print. Some things to look out for are: immigration, poverty, benefits, exam results, private education, achievement, free schools.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/Sociology>

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/sociology>

Task 6: How do we use questionnaires effectively?

In Sociology, data on society is collected in different way. You are going to conduct your own sociological survey and collect data on an aspect of society that particularly interests you (for example, why do people leave school for college? Why do people go travelling? Why do people drink underage? How people coped with isolation during the Coronavirus pandemic).

Questionnaires

Part A: You must design a **questionnaire**, with between 6-8 questions on your given area. You will need to break your topic up into smaller questions.

For example:

1. What is your age?
2. Are you male or female?
3. Did you go travelling because... (pick one)
 - You didn't want a job
 - You had family abroad
 - You wanted an adventure
4. Where did you go travelling?
5. Would you go travelling again? Yes/No

You will need to carry out your questionnaire on a range of different people. **Aim to ask 5 people the same questionnaire**, you could email it to friends/family if you don't have that many people in your house!

Part B: Presenting your questionnaire findings

Present your findings from the questionnaire in either in a graph or a pie chart and explain what you have found.

<http://www.sociology.org.uk/revqrm1.pdf>

Additional tasks:

If you want to do anything extra there are lots of different opportunities.

You could:

- Complete a Future Learn course - What is Sociology? (3 week course)

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/what-is-sociology>

- Watch some documentaries: Stacey Dooley, Louis Theroux, Reggie Yates on *Gangs*, *Secret Life of 4 year olds*, *Educating (Essex etc)*....
- Watch the news, read the papers, logon to a news app.
- Look at the resources on the Sociology section of tutor2u.