

A Level Sociology – Taster activities



What is Sociology?

- Sociology is the study of human social relationships and institutions within society.
- Sociology's subject matter is diverse, ranging from crime to religion, from the family to the state, from the divisions of race and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture and radical change in societies over time.
- Sociology aims to understand how human actions and beliefs both shape and are shaped by surrounding cultural and social structures.



A Key concept in Sociology - Socialisation

- Socialisation is the process through which individuals learn the **norms** and **values** of society.
- This is important in order for society to be harmonious and it also helps bind people together.
- First of all people are socialised into their own family and local community's norms through **primary socialisation** and then learn universalistic values (the norms and values of wider society) through **secondary socialisation** (through institutions such as the education system, religion and the media).



Understanding socialisation – Activity 1

Watch this clip on Oxana Malaya who was abandoned by her parents:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93HymGXCwM>

Questions to answer

1. How is Oxana's behaviour different to 'normal' behaviour?
2. What does this clip suggest about the importance of socialisation within the family?
3. What does this clip tell us about how we are taught to behave so that we fit in to society?



Understanding socialisation – Activity 2

- Consider the following institutions in society. Answer the three questions in relation to each institution. It is interesting to discuss your thoughts with other family members such as your parents.

- The Family
- Education
- Religion
- The Media

1. What do we learn from this institution?
2. Why is this institution important for society?
3. Is this institution still important for our society today?



Discussion statements – Activity 3

- Now consider these statements - all are related to topics covered during the course.
 - Make a note of your initial ideas and thoughts. Try to consider alternative viewpoints
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- The family is a vital institution in society and is always a positive experience
 - Education is fair and there are no inequalities
 - People are treated equally by the police and the law
 - Religion is still an important part of society today



Finally....



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