

A Level Sociology

Pre-course tasks



Welcome to Sociology year 11!

This booklet is designed to help introduce you to A Level Sociology, which you have chosen to take this September. The pack is designed to give you a flavour of what A level Sociology is all about to aid your understanding ready for sixth form.

A Level course outline		
Year 12	Year 12 & 13	Year 13: Options in Psychology
Education	Sociological theory & research methods	Beliefs in society
Families & Households		Crime & Deviance

Task One – Introduction to Sociology

Sociology involves studying various aspects of society giving you an insight into social and cultural issues. During the A Level course you will learn multiple sociological perspectives including Functionalism, Marxism and Feminism, as well as developing a critical approach to understand issues surrounding gender, social class and ethnicity in our society.

Here are some of the **BIG** questions we will look at during the A Level course

1. To what extent are we shaped by society?
2. To what extent does our social class background affect our life chances?
3. To what extent does our gender affect our life chances?
4. To what extent does our ethnicity affect our life chances?
5. What is the role of institutions in society – do they perform positive functions, or simply work in the interests of the powerful and against the powerless?
6. How and why has British society changed over the last 50 years?

In 50-100 words, summarise what you believe Sociology to be.

Now watch the following video and add to your notes, summarising what you believe Sociology to be. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LK5J0-cM-HE>

Use the internet or your existing knowledge to write definitions for the following key concepts. You will use these concepts throughout the course so try to write a definition in your own words.

Key concept	Definition
Primary socialisation	
Secondary socialisation	
Culture	
Subculture	
Norms	
Values	
Social control	
Value consensus	
Ideology	
Patriarchy	
Quantitative data	
Qualitative data	

Task Two - Socialisation

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

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93HymGXC_wM

1. Write down the main points from the clip:

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2. Comment on what the case of Oxana Malaya teaches us about the following:

Importance of the family	
How we are taught the basics in life	
Is our behaviour determined by our nature (biology) or nurture (environment)	

3. Find out what the term 'social construction' means?

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4. Explain how the following examples can be seen as being 'socially constructed'

Family life	
Childhood	
Gender roles	
Crime statistics	

Task Three - Sociological perspectives

Within your sociological studies you will be expected to discuss several sociological approaches/theories to society.

Your task is to research Functionalism, the New Right perspective, Marxism, Feminism and Postmodernism. Complete the table below. Here is a useful website

<https://revisesociology.com/sociology-theories-a-level/>

Sociological perspective	Key thinker(s)	View of society
Functionalism		
Marxism		
Feminism		

Sociological perspective	Key thinker(s)	View of society
Postmodernism		
The New Right		

Now choose two perspectives and write a short paragraph that explains how they might view the role of the family or education in society.

Choose one of the perspectives and explain why you would agree/disagree with their views.

Task Four – Sociological Research task

Youth Subcultures, Youth Deviance & Social Inequality and Difference

In 2011 riots occurred in the UK. They started in London and then spread to other cities such as Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool. 5 people were killed and many homes and businesses were looted or burnt down.



Use the internet to research the reasons for these riots; watch YouTube videos and read accounts in news articles from the time.

Task - Create an information sheet on the London Riots answering the following questions:

1. What were the reasons given by the government at the time for the riots?
2. What view would the different theories and approaches in sociology have?
3. Who was blamed for the riots?
4. How did the media report the riots?
5. Lastly what do you think was the cause of the riots?

Useful links

<https://blog.oup.com/2015/03/social-forces-london-riots/>

<https://revisesociology.com/2017/06/27/sociological-perspectives-london-riots/>

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/reference/crime-and-deviance-video-uk-riots-2011>

