

Sociology Transition Booklet

Introduction:

Sociology is the study of society - how people interact in groups. A **level Sociology** examines social behaviour from a variety of perspectives: how it originates and then develops, and the ways people are organised into groups according to distinctions such as class, gender and race.

Overview of issues covered on the course:

Research Methods and Methods in Context

- How should sociologists study society?
- What kinds of issues should sociologists focus on?
- Can sociologists trust official statistics?

Education

- To what extent does your gender / ethnicity / social class affect your chances of succeeding in education?
- Does the education system benefit society or merely benefit one class in society?
- How have recent governments tried to raise standards in education?

Families and Households

- How much equality is there between couples?
- What is childhood? Does it still exist?
- How have changes in the family affected British society?
- What role does the family play in society?

Beliefs

- To what extent does religion still have influence in society?
- Does religion benefit society?
- Has there been a resurgence of religion in society?

Crime & Deviance with Theory & Methods

- Is crime useful for society?
- How do deviant acts come to be defined as crimes?
- Why are some groups more likely to commit / be a victim of crime?
- Does sociology provide a 'scientific' understanding of society?

A-level Sociology: Flipped learning

*** These tasks must be completed by the start of the course ***

TASK 1- Read the Chapter given on Theories of the following.

Summarise in 100 words the following theories:

Functionalism

Feminism

Marxism

Post Modernism

Complete the Quick Check questions in the chapter and be prepared for a knowledge test on entry into Year 12.

TASK 2 - Read the passage below, then answer the questions that follow.

The sociology of childhood

Sociologists see childhood is socially constructed; in other words, it is something that is created and defined by society. They claim that what people mean by childhood, and the position that children occupy in society, is not fixed but differs between times, places and cultures. We can see this by comparing the modern UK view of childhood with childhood in the past and in other countries. Some sociologists argue that, over the past few centuries, the position of children in the UK has been steadily improving and that childhood today is better than it has ever been. One reason for this is that we have better standards of living, meaning that children are less likely to suffer from diseases than in the past. However, other sociologists disagree; they argue that children face new threats, such as junk food, online-bullying and child abuse, which make modern childhood 'toxic'.

Questions

1) List five words that you associate with childhood in the UK.

2) Consult the picture. What stereotypes about childhood does the picture challenge?

3) Apart from better standards of living, outline three reasons why childhood today may be better than in the past.

4) 'Childhood today is better than it has ever been.' To what extent do you agree with this view? [Write at least half a side of A4 for this question and show an opposing view].



TASK 3: The Big Debate! - Which plays a more important role in shaping why someone becomes a criminal - nature or nurture?

- Research the above topic and summarise key points for both sides of the argument in order to participate actively in a class debate.
- Use articles from the websites below to help you to create informed arguments.
- Conduct your own independent research too and bring your articles in to share with the group.

Websites to get you started...

- <https://getrevising.co.uk/>
- <https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/Magazines/Magazines-extras/Sociology-Review-extras> • <https://nateherbst-sociologycity.weebly.com/nature-v-nurture.html>
- <https://courses.lumenlearning>

TASK 4: Complete 5 of the tasks in the coloured chart.

These tasks will get you thinking like a sociologist and understanding more deeply the questions that we ask ourselves as Sociologists.

TED Talks to watch:

- Lessons from the longest study on human development
- What makes a good life?
- Do schools kill creativity?
- True Crime
- How masculinity is evolving

If you require any support with your transition work please email Mr Whitehouse – w.whitehouse@arkglobe.org

Create a poster which outlines some of the 'issues' within contemporary society, as suggested by the media.	Interview at least 5 members of your family to research into the following question 'what makes a family?'	Write a report (300 word limit) on how family structure has changed in modern day society.
Create a timeline to highlight and explain the changes in key sociological thinking over the past 100 years.	Write a 300 word report answering the question 'Why is sociology beneficial to society?'	Create a 2 page statistical report on immigration/emigration in the UK.
Write a 200 word speech on gender inequalities in education.	Watch a TED talk concerning a topic you find interesting on Sociology and write a short report on what you learned.	Build a model which represents the way <i>functionalists</i> view society.