

Starting Sociology AS Level in September 2018 - Preparation Work

In preparation for your Sociology AS Level, please carry out the following tasks:

Sociology in the news

Keep an eye on the news over the summer and collect examples of news stories in the following areas. Bring these articles to class and we will discuss these in September.

- Education policies changing (free schools, academies, leaving age etc.)
- League tables for schools (exam results etc.)
- Ethnic minorities, white British, males, females and working class / upper class that have committed crimes
- Women in high up/important careers / males in high up/ important careers (are there more examples of one than the other?)
- Different types of families e.g. same sex marriages, lone parent families
- Childhood - has it changed, are children facing more control or more dangers, and has access to the internet made childhood 'toxic'?
- Housework and childcare and how it is shared (or not) between men and women.
- Media representations of different people e.g. how does the media portray men and women, old people, homosexuals, ethnic minority groups, different social classes.

Carrying out some Sociological Interviews

Select 4/5 family members or friends of variety of ages.

- Write at 5 interview questions to see how the family has changed over the last 50 years. You should find out if the structure of the family, gender roles and views on childhood have changed. E.g. talk to your parents or grandparents about their childhood and how much freedom they had (or not), about the type of family they grew up in and how the housework was shared (or not).
- Write at least 5 interview questions to see how the education system has changed over the last 50 years. You should speak to older relatives to find out about the different types of schools they attended compared to young people now (grammar, comprehensives, technical schools, academies, free schools etc) and how policies have helped or hindered certain groups (e.g. did anyone benefit from free university education or EMAs?)

Theories of Sociology

- Produce a poster / mindmap / powerpoint / table on the following key theories of Sociology:
 - Functionalism
 - Marxism
 - Feminism
 - New Right
 - Postmodernism
- Who are the key thinkers?
- What do each of the theories say about:
 - Education
 - Family
 - Crime and Deviance
 - Inequality

What is Sociology?

- Based on the below tasks, using pictures / drawings / key words, produce a collage that tells GCSE students 'What is Sociology?'