**Year 12 Sociology Induction**

The following programme is designed to prepare you for A level Sociology for the following topics:

* **Sociological Theory and Research Methods**

You must aim to complete all sections of the programme to ensure that you have a thorough understanding of the background of Sociological theory and Research Methods. It is suggested that you complete each task before the A level Sociology course starts in September. Suggested website links are included.

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|  | Topic | Task set | Complete |
| 1 | Society | The social world is changing. Some argue it is growing; others say it is shrinking. The important point to grasp is: 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 Democrat: What are their main ideas? How are they different? * If you were in power, what would your first four items be on your agenda? What would you hope to do?   <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> |  |
|  | 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 |  |
|  | Main Sociological Theories | A theory, for our purpose, is something that explains the relationship between two or more things. A perspective can be defined as a way of looking at and seeing something. To have a perspective, therefore, means to look at something (whatever that thing might be) in a particular way. When we talk about the sociological perspective, therefore, we are talking about the particular way those sociologists, as opposed to non-sociologists to try to understand human social behaviour.  Use the internet to find out about the main sociological theories. For each one explain the main idea and concepts and the key sociologists:   * Functionalism * Marxism * Feminism * Action Theories * Postmodernism * Which sociological perspective do you agree with? Why?   The YouTube channel below is good for summaries of the main theories:  <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuuaLjXtMJ-AfB_7J1538YKWkZAnGA>  <https://revisesociology.com/sociology-theories-a-level/>  <https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/topics/group/theory-methods-key-terms> |  |
|  | Research Methods: Questionnaires | 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**  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  1. Where did you go travelling? 2. 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.**  **Task 2: Presenting your questionnaire findings**  You will need to 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/revgrm1.pdf**](http://www.sociology.org.uk/revgrm1.pdf) |  |
|  | Research Methods: Interviews | **Interviews**  You must design a set of interview questions (between 6-8) on the same area as your questionnaire (You can use the same questions or pick new ones, this is up to you).  **For example:**   1. Please give me 2 reasons why you decided to go travelling? 2. Did you travel alone? Why? 3. Would you go travelling again?   This time **ask different people** from those who completed your questionnaire. **Aim to carry out your interview on at least 3 people**.  **Presenting your interview findings**  You will need to draw conclusions from your interviews and explain what you have found.  [**http://www.sociology.org.uk/revgrm1.pdf**](http://www.sociology.org.uk/revgrm1.pdf) |  |
|  | Research Methods: Evaluating methods | Evaluating questionnaires and interviews: Answer the following essay question:  **What are the positives and negatives of using questionnaires and interviews when collecting data?**  You will need to explain both the **positives** and **negatives** of using both questionnaires and interviews. You must also explain any difficulties you had and why, and come to an overall **conclusion** of which method worked best for you. You should write at least 750 words.  [**http://www.sociology.org.uk/revgrm1.pdf**](http://www.sociology.org.uk/revgrm1.pdf) |  |
| Additional options | | Future Learn course – What is Sociology? 3 week course  <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/what-is-sociology>  Other sources of information/ways to develop you sociological understanding of local, regional, national and global issues:   * BBC News * ‘Thinking aloud’ Radio 4 podcast * Twitter #sociology * Panorama * Read a range of different newspapers * Social media   Extra reading:   * Gang Leader for a Day by Sudhir Venkatesh * Watching the English: The Hidden Rules of English Behaviour by Kate Fox * Chavs: The Demonization of the Working Class by Owen Jones * Animal Farm by George Orwell * Lord of the Flies by William Golding * We Should All Be Feminists by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie |  |