

Sociology A level bridging tasks.



We follow the AQA specification

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192/specification-at-a-glance>

Make sure you look at the A level content (for the optional topics we do 'Families and Households' and 'Beliefs in society')

Course textbook: AQA A Level Sociology book 1 by Rob Webb (ISBN - 13:9780954007911)

Tasks to be completed for the first lesson

1. What is sociology?

Task: Devise a colourful mindmap (preferably with pictures/illustrations) of what sociology is all about.

Watch the two short clips below to get an idea about some of the core themes and ideas in sociology and do some of your own research

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W-QWeK4wwOw>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32KG_ba_NJc

2. Researching Sociological theories



Sociologists seek to answer questions and develop theories about the social world. Their theories usually take the form of explanations of how or why social life follows the patterns that it does. You will need to understand the key theories in sociology: **Functionalism, Marxism, Feminist theories and Action theories.**

Task: Briefly summarise each theory (at least 2 paragraphs) with the key ideas and the sociologists involved.

3. Research methods- How do sociologists study society?

Task: Design a poster with the main research methods used in sociology and a brief explanation of each (experiment, participant observation, interviews, questionnaires, official statistics and documents)

Can you find out what is the difference between positivists and interpretivists?

4. One of the common threads we will explore is about inequality in society. Here are two really interesting documentaries about homelessness and poverty.

Task: After watching these write down any assumptions you may have had before watching these and how your opinions/ideas may have changed as a result of watching them

Professor Green explores what it means to be homeless.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9HohQTwi6A>

Living in poverty. Professor Green

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

Non essential but interesting resources!

Films to watch with some core sociological themes:

I Daniel Blake

Made in Dagenham

One Flew over the Cuckoo's nest

The Shawshank Redemption

TED talks are a great way to get different views/perspectives of the world. Try and find some that interest you - there are a huge number of them, but here's one to start you off:

How racism makes us sick. David R. Williams

https://www.ted.com/talks/david_r_williams_how_racism_makes_us_sick#t-465531

The Guardian website is a brilliant place to find articles. Here are a few we have found which link to the course you will be starting.

Education

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/mar/17/the-expert-in-social-mobility-who-says-education-cannot-make-it-happen>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jan/08/black-british-history-should-be-in-mainstream-says-campaigner>

Education and inequality <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zss7tfr>

Private schools and privilege <https://youtu.be/pN36jVSp1x0>

Families and Households

The family and socialisation <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/news-and-blogs/our-blog/traditional-gender-roles-and-stereotypes-how-it-can-affect-children>

Who does the Housework? <https://youtu.be/DQSqAjoZIVQ>

Tutor2U sociology - this is a really good site to use when studying sociology as it gives you summary notes on the key topics. This link takes you to the Education and Families and Households topics.

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/reference/study-notes>

