



A-level Sociology



This research-based project is designed to give you an ideal grounding for A-level study. Research and complete 2 of the tasks (or as many as you like) to give you a good idea of what to expect on a Sociology course. If you then choose to study Sociology this will give you a good head start for Sociology. Present the tasks in any format you like – this could be a PowerPoint or a poster, or a leaflet, or on A4.

The work should be handed in on your first sociology lesson in September.

Good luck and enjoy!

The Sociology Team

Task 1- CULTURE:

Culture is one of the fundamental concepts in sociology, however the theorist Raymond Williams once described 'culture' as one of the most difficult words in the English language to define. For some, culture is about the best that 'has been thought and said in the world'. In other words, culture is about great art, great literature, and great thought. However, for others, such as Raymond Williams culture is 'ordinary'.

Culture is not just about what talent artists do, but it is what we all do. It is how we live. Sociologists highlight that culture is made up of **NORMS** of expected behaviour and **VALUES** which are ideas held to be important. Culture may also include **SHARED BELIEFS, LANGUAGE, RITUALS AND CUSTOMS, ART, and LITERATURE**

Your task is to outline the features of British culture.

- This outline could be in the form of a report, cartoon, diagram or collage.
- Do you think shared culture exists? What problems are there with this concept?

Task 2- SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES:

A level Sociology involves learning about competing perspectives on society, these views are referred to as sociological theories. It is essential that you understand these perspectives as their competing views will inform your analysis of society.

Your task is to carry out independent research using the internet to find out key information about the five main sociological perspectives Use this table to summarise your findings.

	Functionalism	Marxism	Feminism	Social Action	Postmodernism
Key ideas					
Key writers					
Criticisms					

Task 3- The Education Debate

'Private education is not fair. Those who provide it know it. Those who pay for it know it. Those who have to sacrifice in order to purchase it know it. And those who receive it know it or should.'

Alan Bennet (himself a grammar schoolboy) in a lecture at Cambridge University in 2014.

Was he right?

Write a persuasive argument either for or against the above statement (approximately 200-300 words)

Please have the work ready to be collected in your first sociology lesson.

