

Introduction to A Level Sociology

Please use this booklet to
complete all tasks and create a
portfolio of evidence



Introduction to Sociology Tasks

Welcome to A level sociology. I'm very glad that you have signed up, and I look forward to meeting you when we all get back to school.



Because the subject will be new to you, I've tried to put together a list of tasks which will tell you a little bit about the subject, and get you thinking like a sociologist ready for starting the A level in full.

Visit http://www.discoversociology.co.uk/what_is_sociology and answer the following questions

What is sociology?

What is the difference between structure and agency?

What kinds of questions can studying sociology help us to answer?

On the same website, use the menu on the left to look at the skills sociology will help you develop and careers it may lead to.

Which skills do you think will be most useful to you and why?

Which careers sound most interesting to you and why?

There are 5 examples of people who have studied sociology and work in varied professions (listed on the left hand menu as My Life in Sociology, From the Classroom to the Interview Room, From PHD to Public Health Doctor, The Road to Success and Scaling New Heights). Read each, choose one to summarise (briefly explain their story), then explain why you find this the most interesting.

An important sociological concept: Culture

We will think about the impact of culture, and use it as evidence that many things we assume to be 'true' are in fact 'social constructs' (dependent on the time and place for our understanding)

First, define 'culture' (you can use an online dictionary to help):

Now, watch these HSBC ads.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALWwK7VZ4gY&feature=emb_title

What examples of differences in 'culture' do you see?

How does this show us the importance of our social surroundings in how we behave?

A very different culture

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BrIO1ZXmBKo>

What is the significance of the feathering ceremony?

How might Indigenous Two-spirit challenge gender norms?

In what ways might Indigenous ways of living challenge western ideas on individualism?

Why is the preservation of culture so important for Indigenous communities?

A closer look at British Culture

Listen to this podcast 'The Class Ceiling'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000281t>

This takes a closer look at a significant issue in British Culture which is of particular interest to many sociologists.

What do you learn and why does it matter?

Intersectionality and Privilege Walk

Intersectionality is a term coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw, an American academic, in the late 1980s. It describes how race, class, gender and other personal characteristics 'intersect' with one another and overlap. Read the blog and watch the video at the bottom.

<https://blog.shrm.org/blog/my-experience-with-the-privilege-walk>

What is the purpose of the privilege walk?

What does the privilege walk activity tell us about the concept of intersectionality?