



Year 12 Pre-Course Project – A Level Sociology

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

Education

Families and Households

Media - Globalisation

Crime and Deviance

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 for both topics. It is suggested that you complete a task each week. Suggested website links are included.

Week	Topic	Task set	Complete
1	Society	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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? <p>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</p>	
2	What is Sociology?	<p>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.</p> <p>Find the definitions for the following key sociological terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socialisation (primary socialisation and secondary socialisation) • Norms • Values • Beliefs • Culture • Social Class • Gender • Ethnicity 	

3	Main Sociological Theories	<p>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.</p> <p>Use the internet to find out about the main sociological theories. For each one explain the main idea and concepts and the key sociologists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Functionalism • Marxism • Feminism • Action Theories • Postmodernism • Which sociological perspective do you agree with? Why? <p>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</p>	
4	Education	<p>Research the History of Education in the UK and answer the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When did education become compulsory in the UK? • Prior to compulsory education, what were the differences in who used to receive schooling? • What are the oldest and newest subjects? • How have the methods of dealing with behaviour changed over time? • What are some of the major changes that have taken place in UK education in the 20th and 21st centuries? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider the impact of the following policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Education Act 1944 (Tripartite System) ■ Comprehensives 1966 ■ Education Reform Act 1988 • Your personal view on – what is the role and purpose of education? <p>https://www.schoolsmith.co.uk/history-of-education/ https://getrevising.co.uk/revision-notes/social-policy-and-education</p>	
5	Family	<p>Find the definitions for the following key family terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monogamy • Bigamy • Polygamy • Maternal • Nuclear family • Empty nest • Empty shell marriage • Extended family • Kinship 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cohabitation <p>Research the changing family in the UK and answer the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has the family structure changed over the past 100 years? • How have the following policies affected the family? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Divorce Act 1969 and 1984 ○ The Paternity Act 2010 ○ The Civil partnerships Act 2004 and the Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Act 2013 <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zj8qn39/revision/2 https://revisesociology.com/2015/12/17/social-policy-family/</p>	
6	Media	<p>Sociology is everywhere so you'll be able to see aspects of it in all forms of media. Try searching for the following titles and make notes on any videos you watch, try to keep it relevant to the topics taught in Sociology (Education, Families, Global Development, Crime and Deviance).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did you learn about society? • How does the programme link to the topics you will be studying? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stacey Dooley documentaries (BBC iplayer/YouTube) ○ Black Mirror (Netflix) – Nosedive episode ○ School Swap documentary(4OD) ○ Louis Theroux documentaries(Netflix) ○ Dispatches documentaries (4OD) ○ Panorama documentaries (BBC iplayer) 	
7	Education and Families in the news	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find the definition of meritocracy. • Read the following news article https://www.tes.com/news/few-one-20-born-poorest-areas-go-university and answer the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Does this article suggest we live in a meritocracy? ○ Why is it important that 'poor' students go to university? • Find 5 news articles that link to Education and/or Families. Download and print. Some things to look out for are: immigration, poverty, benefits, exam results, private education, achievement, free schools. <p>https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/Sociology https://www.theguardian.com/education/sociology</p>	
8	Globalisation	<p>Research globalisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is globalisation? • How has it occurred? • What is the debate between globalisation and Westernisation/Americanisation? • Research different experiences of childhood across the world and give reasons for why society may or may not be more 'child-centred' • How has war affected different societies? <p>https://www.sociologygroup.com/sociology-of-globalization/ https://revisionworld.com/a2-level-level-revision/sociology-level-revision/family/childhood https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Effects_of_war</p>	

9	Crime	<p>Using the internet, research the answers to the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a crime? • What is deviance? • What are laws? • What is a white collar crime? • Moral crimes include offences such as prostitution, underage drinking and illegal drug use. Why do some people argue that such crimes are ‘victimless’? • What is cybercrime? Name some examples of cybercrimes. • What is a hate crime? • What do you think is more effective in reducing crime: crime prevention or harsher punishments? <p>https://www.coursehero.com/sg/introduction-to-sociology/defining-crime-in-sociology/</p> <p>Go on the following website and research crime in your area or the area near your school. https://www.crime-statistics.co.uk/postcode/AL10%208NL and answer the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where does most crime take place? • What are the top 3 crimes/offences? • Why do you think that those crimes are committed in your area? Think about socio-economic issues and location. 	
10	Research Methods: Questionnaires	<p>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).</p> <p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is your age? 2. Are you male or female? 3. Did you go travelling because... (pick one) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You didn’t want a job • You had family abroad • You wanted an adventure 4. Where did you go travelling? 5. Would you go travelling again? Yes/No <p>You will need to carry out your questionnaire on a range of different people. Aim to ask 5 people the same questionnaire.</p> <p>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</p>	

11	Research Methods: Interviews	<p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please give me 2 reasons why you decided to go travelling? 2. Did you travel alone? Why? 3. Would you go travelling again? <p>This time ask different people from those who completed your questionnaire. Aim to carry out your interview on at least 3 people.</p> <p>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</p>	
12	Research Methods: Evaluating methods	<p>Evaluating questionnaires and interviews: Answer the following essay question:</p> <p>What are the positives and negatives of using questionnaires and interviews when collecting data?</p> <p>You will need to explain both the positives and negatives of using both <u>questionnaires</u> and <u>interviews</u>. 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.</p> <p>http://www.sociology.org.uk/revgrm1.pdf</p>	
Additional options		<p>Future Learn course – What is Sociology? 3 week course https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/what-is-sociology</p> <p>Other sources of information/ways to develop you sociological understanding of local, regional, national and global issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBC News • 'Thinking aloud' Radio 4 podcast • Twitter #sociology • Panorama • Read a range of different newspapers • Social media <p>Extra reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	

Marking Criteria

Quality of Response	Criteria
3	<p>A detailed response to the questions, showing in depth research and knowledge. The response is supported by evidence from a wide range of sources and includes research outside the websites provided. Information has been carefully considered and evaluated before reaching judgements.</p> <p>You have produced a high quality questionnaire and interview that has addressed a variety of questions. You have evaluated both the positives and negatives of both these types of research methods. You have come to a balanced conclusion and reached a judgment on which method worked best for you.</p>
2	<p>A detailed response, showing some good research and knowledge. The response is supported by evidence from a range of historical sources. Information has been considered in reaching judgements.</p> <p>You have produced a good questionnaire and interview that has looked at different questions. You had pointed out both the positives and negatives of both research methods. You have come to a conclusion on which method worked best for you.</p>
1	<p>A response which shows limited research and knowledge. The response is supported by some evidence, but is insufficient in preparation for the course.</p> <p>You have a poorly constructed questionnaire and interview with limited questions. You have only looked at the positives or negatives of both types of research methods. You have not reached a conclusion.</p>