
A-LEVEL SOCIOLOGY TRANSITION WORK 2020

Overview of issues covered on the course



Research Methods and Methods in Context

- How should sociologists study society?
- What kinds of issues should sociologists focus on?
- Can sociologists trust official statistics?

Education

- To what extent does your gender / ethnicity / social class affect your chances of succeeding in education?
- Does the education system benefit society or merely benefit one class in society?
- How have recent governments tried to raise standards in education?

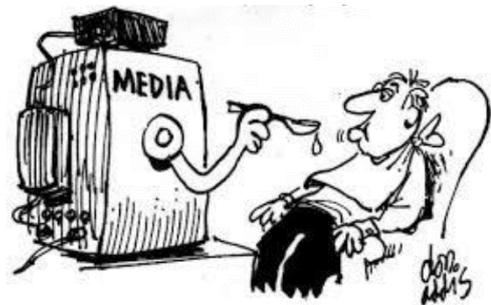


Families and Households

- How much equality is there between couples?
- What is childhood? Does it still exist?
- How have changes in the family affected British society?
- What role does the family play in society?

The Media

- To what extent does the mass media stereotype certain groups in society?
- Does the mass media try to spread Western culture around the globe?
- How much power does the audience have to control the content of the mass media?



Crime & Deviance with Theory & Methods

- Is crime useful for society?
- How do deviant acts come to be defined as crimes?
- Why are some groups more likely to commit / be a victim of crime?
- Does sociology provide a 'scientific' understanding of society?

A-level Sociology: Flipped learning

*** These tasks must be completed by the start of the course ***

TASK 1 - Read the passage below, then answer the questions that follow.

The sociology of childhood

Sociologists see childhood is socially constructed; in other words, it is something that is created and defined by society. They claim that what people mean by childhood, and the position that children occupy in society, is not fixed but differs between times, places and cultures. We can see this by comparing the modern UK view of childhood with childhood in the past and in other countries.

Some sociologists argue that, over the past few centuries, the position of children in the UK has been steadily improving and that childhood today is better than it has ever been. One reason for this is that we have better standards of living, meaning that children are less likely to suffer from diseases than in the past. However, other sociologists disagree; they argue that children face new threats, such as junk food, online-bullying and child abuse, which make modern childhood 'toxic'.

- 1) List five words that you associate with childhood in the UK.
- 2) Consult the picture below. What stereotypes about childhood does the picture challenge?
- 3) Apart from better standards of living, outline three reasons why childhood today may be better than in the past.
- 4) 'Childhood today is better than it has ever been.' To what extent do you agree with this view? [Write at least half a side of A4 for this question].



TASK 2: The Big Debate! - *Which plays a more important role in shaping who we are - nature or nurture?*

- Research the above topic and summarise key points for both sides of the argument in order to participate actively in a class debate.
- This must be completed by the end of the first week of term.
- Use articles from the websites below to help you to create informed arguments.
- Conduct your own independent research too and bring your articles in to share with the group.

Websites to get you started...

- <https://getrevising.co.uk/>
- <https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/Magazines/Magazines-extras/Sociology-Review-extras>
- <https://nateherbst-sociologycity.weebly.com/nature-v-nurture.html>
- <https://courses.lumenlearning>

Task 3: Please complete one line from the task list below. All students must complete the middle task:

<p>Create a poster which outlines some of the 'issues' within contemporary society, as suggested by the media.</p>	<p>Interview at least 5 members of your family to research into the following question 'what makes a family?'</p>	<p>Write a report (300 word limit) on how family structure has changed in modern day society.</p>
<p>Create a timeline to highlight and explain the changes in key sociological thinking over the past 100 years.</p>	<p>Write a 300 word report answering the question 'Why is sociology beneficial to society?'</p>	<p>Create a 2 page statistical report on immigration/emigration in the UK.</p>
<p>Write a 200 word speech on gender inequalities in education.</p>	<p>Watch a TED talk concerning a topic you find interesting on Sociology and write a short report on what you learned.</p>	<p>Build a model which represents the way <i>functionalists</i> view society.</p>