



SOCIOLOGY BRIDGING UNIT

Walton Academy

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This research-based project is designed to give you an ideal grounding for A-level study.

Research and complete all of the tasks 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 your A Level Sociology.

Present the tasks in any format you like – this could be a powerpoint or a poster, or a leaflet, or word processed on an A4. **Please keep all your work together.**

If you are new to sociology and have not studied the GCSE- do not worry! Most of the topics we will cover, haven't been studied at GCSE so the information will be new to everyone.

What is sociology?

Sociology is an exciting subject that challenges your everyday experiences.

It is the study of the relationship between the individual and society.

Sociologists are interested in why society works in the way that it does and the extent to which our **behaviour and opportunities** can be shaped by our **social class, age, gender and race.**

Sociological theories

In sociology, we study society from different sociological perspectives. As you get further into the course, you will figure out your own preference in regards to which theory you think suits your own views the most.

We will examine each topic and examine how each theories view the key debates. Some of our theories completely agree with one another, some completely disagree!

For each theory research the following questions.

- **You need to present this so each theory has it's own page. This will be a sheet you will use for most of your course!**
- **Do not simply write a question and answer- full sentences and paragraphs are expected**
- **Do not simply copy and paste!**

The main theories we will use are;

1. Marxism

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/topics/marxism>

- Who founded Marxism?
- Why are Marxists a conflict theory? Who do they believe are in conflict?
- Why do Marxists disagree with capitalism?
- Who are the bourgeoisie? Who are the proletariat?
- What would the proletariat eventually do according to Marxists?

2. Functionalism

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/topics/functionalism>

- Who founded functionalism?
- Why are functionalists a consensus theory?
- What did functionalists mean by the organic analogy? Explain what this means
- What do functionalists mean by anomie?

3. Feminism

- What do feminists mean by patriarchy?
- Research the four types of feminism– Radical, Marxist, Liberal, Black

4. Interactionism

- How do interactionists do their research? And what do they look for?
- Explain labelling theory?

Dissecting articles

As part of your study for A Level Sociology, it is vitally important that you explore the latest current affairs through the different news outlets. The students who achieve the best grades, use their knowledge of current affairs to support their essay answers.

Task 1:

Read the following article: <https://www.tes.com/news/few-one-20-born-poorest-areas-go-university>

Answer the following questions;

- **What is meritocracy?**
- **Does this article suggest we live in a meritocracy?**
- **Why is it important that 'poor' students go to university?**
- **Why do you think the most disadvantaged don't go to university?**

Task 2:

Read the following article: <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2018/jan/29/the-seven-apps-every-woman-should-own>

In 500 words, explain how radical and liberal feminist would respond to this article

ONCE A SOCIOLOGIST, ALWAYS A SOCIOLOGIST!

The Sociology department would love for you to continue to stay cognitively engaged over the coming weeks and months, despite the cancellation of this year's exams. The following are suggestions, they are not compulsory, but we would love for you to engage in any that you find interesting.



Task: A sociological review (500 words)

Choose either a book, film, podcast or blog/news article- just **one!**

Write a review explaining;


- What you learnt
- What were the most interesting things you found?
 - Did you agree with everything said?
- What did it make you question or think about?



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	www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/topics/Sociology_of_culture Black Mirror www.channel4.com/programmes/dispatches	Poor Kids: Life on the Breadline (Child Poverty Documentary) Real Stories www.ted.com/talks?topics%5B%5D=sociology BBC Panorama
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Getting prepared for A Level Sociology

Stationery

- Three large folders
- Plastic wallets
- Dividers for each folder
- Different coloured pens for different tasks
- Highlighters
- Hole punched refill pad to keep in your folder

Text books

Try to shop around for these to get them cheaper, if you know a current year 13 student- ask if they or know anyone selling theirs!

- OCR textbooks
- Revision notes revision guide