

Sociology Transition work

Welcome to Sociology A Level! Sociology is the study of society and below are some tasks that will help introduce you to key ideas, theories and concepts in this subject.

Task 1 Glossary or key terms list: Building literacy, knowledge & understanding.

Key Words	Definition
1. Society	
2. Theory	
3. Patriarchy	
4. Sexism	
5. Class	
6. Classism	
7. Capitalism	
8. Communism	
9. Revolution	
10.Norms and Values	
11.Social Solidarity	
12.Socialisation	
13.Primary Socialisation	
14.Secondary Socialisation	
15.Labelling	
16.Consensus Theory	
17.Conflict Theory	
18.Globalisation	
19. Upper Class	
20.Working Class	

21. Ruling Class	
22. Ideology	
23. Solidarity	
24. Means of Production	
25. Individualism	

Task 2 Understanding and comparing some key theories and concepts:

- A) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vh3yePUI-Aw> What is Sociology?
 B) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMBq5J3hbqU> Functionalist Theory
 C) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RhU57_nP3zM Marxist Theory

Watch the videos above and make notes. Then using the information and some of the key words from task 1:

- Write an introduction to Sociology for a new A Level student
- Write a debate on society between a Marxist and Functionalist – think about if they view society as being positive or negative?

Task 3 Gain knowledge and understanding of something subject specific- A building block for the induction period or first topic or first year or whole qualification.

1. The defining characteristic of human behaviour is:

- Their gender/ sex
- Their social class
- Their Race
- Their integration into society
- Their culture

2. We have the freedom to choose our own behaviour

- Yes
- No
- Depends
- Doesn't matter
- What is freedom?

3. What are your views on the family....

- Family is oppressive to women and teaches us to conform to gender roles
- Family is a tool of the ruling class teaching us to obey authority
- Family is a vital part of socialisation that teaches us norms and values
- Family is what you make it, everyone has a different view on it
- Family – what is a family? You can't define it

4. When it comes to inequality

- A) Gender is the most serious issue!
- B) Money and power the rich exploit the poor!
- C) Inequality is normal part of society
- D) Inequality is a label that has different meanings to people
- E) You make your own reality up

5. When it comes to Crime

- A) The justice system is more lenient on women
- B) Criminal laws protect the rich and powerful
- C) Crime is good for society as it reminds us of the rules
- D) Crimes are actions labelled as wrong to influence our behaviour
- E) Crime – what is a crime? Can we really define what a crime is?

6. When it comes to religion

- A) Religion oppresses and controls women – telling us to cover up and be obedient
- B) Religion is a tool used by those with power to control us
- C) Religion is a useful institution which unites people who share a common set of beliefs
- D) Religion means different things to different people
- E) Religion is just another meta-narrative (big story) people use to explain reality

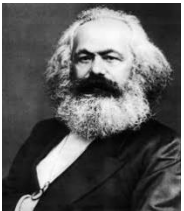
What kind of Sociologist would you be?- Answers

Mostly A – Our Feminist



You are most likely to turn into our Feminist Sue Sharpe. Feminism looks at how society is structured in a way that benefits men while oppressing women – this is known as patriarchy (male domination.). The theory is often a misunderstood as stereotypes and misconceptions about it exists. Many people do not realise that there are several types of feminism such as black, radical feminism and liberal.

Mostly B – Our Marxist



You are most likely to turn into Karl Marx. Marxism looks at how society is constructed in a way that produces class conflict with the rich having all the power and control whilst the poor are oppressed. Marx argues that the root cause of class inequality is down to capitalism as it encourages people to be greedy and materialistic. Just as capitalism replaced feudalism, Marx argues that capitalism will one day be replaced with communism

Mostly C- Our Functionalist



You are most likely to turn into Emile Durkheim. Functionalism is theory which argues that members of society are united together by a shared set of ideas and beliefs called 'norms' (normal behaviour.) These norms are accepted by all members in society and are enforced by structures such as family and education. They see society like a human body – with all parts needed in order for it to 'function' and work effectively.

Mostly D- Our interactionist



You are most likely to turn into Becker/ Mead. Interactionism looks at how people create meaning during social interactions, how they present and construct the self (or identity) as well as how they define situations. One of the perspectives key ideas is that people act the way they do because of how they define situations. Becker uses the example of nudity to illustrate how timing, place and audience can influence how people see an action or idea.

Mostly E – Our post-modernist



You are most likely to turn into Foucault. Post-modernism is a more recent Sociological theory which seeks to question and de-construct existing structures and understandings of reality. Post modernism rejects the idea that one theory such as functionalism, Utilitarianism, religion or even science can explain reality!

Task 4- Our First Topic is The Family

Research the Feminist and the Functionalist view of the family and answer the questions below:

1. Do they agree or disagree with each other? Why?
2. Research these two studies: Duncombe and Marsden- Triple Shift and Murdock- four functions of the family.
3. Which study do you feel represents the role or function of the family today? Why?