



Are you interested in studying A Level Sociology?

These activities are designed to give you a flavour of the key topics we study in Y12 Sociology, and to start developing your 'sociological imagination'.

Complete at least one activity from each page each week to get a head start and see whether Sociology is the subject for you.

Sociological imagination asks us to use our brains to think differently about things and consider why we do the things we do.

Sociology is...

- the study of society, large groups of people and individuals
- it studies how and why people behave the way they do in society
- looks at how structures such as family and Government influence human behaviour
- a social science which uses research to investigate and predict human behaviour to help governments improve the lives of its citizens
- a critical and radical subject, it is about questioning why society is as it is. It is about digging under the surface, looking at what is really going on.

Is Sociology for me?

Yes, if you're interested in questions like these...

Why are some people rich and some people poor?

Are children and young people treated unfairly in society?

Are people successful because of their background or how hard they work?



Why are some of the hardest jobs poorly paid?

Would the world be happier if there was just one religion?

Why are a large proportion of MPs white, male and from private schools?



Sociology is NOT...

- An easy subject
- Just common sense
- Wishy-washy and unscientific
- Psychology
- Criminology

Week 1:

Sociological concepts, theories and methods

Submit at least 1 of the following activities:

A. Watch the clip 'What is Sociology?' (see next slide for link) and complete the Quick Check questions 1-10. This will give you a good overview of what the subject is and some of the key concepts you will learn about in Y12.

B. Read the following summaries of these 3 key sociologists on the Tutor2U website. Then create one of the following to illustrate their key ideas about how society works, either:

- A storyboard or cartoon, or
- A poster presentation, or
- A 3D model using play-doh, plasticine or junk from the recycling bin (take a photo of it!).

i) Karl Marx: <https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/reference/classic-texts-karl-marx-selected-writings-1857-1867>

ii) Emile Durkheim: <https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/reference/what-is-functionalism>

iii) Sylvia Walby: <https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/reference/classic-texts-sylvia-walby-theorising-patriarchy-1990>

C. Watch this revision video on sociological research methods:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69qP8kFjp_k

Create a big mindmap of all the different research methods discussed e.g. surveys, observation etc. For each one, write a short description of it, one advantage of the method and one disadvantage. Pick one methods that you could use to find out about young people's experiences of self-isolation during the Covid-19 pandemic, and write a plan for how you would go about it, and how you could record your results.

Resources needed to help with week 1

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.

- Find the definitions for the following key sociological terms:
- Socialisation (primary socialisation and secondary socialisation)
- Norms
- Values
- Beliefs
- Culture
- Social Class
- Gender
- Ethnicity

Week 2:

Socialisation and Culture

Submit at least 1 of the following activities :

A. Watch the clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uB5wH4z8FAA>

What are the main features of an English culture?

Choose a different culture and make a list of similarities and difference between the 2.

Do some further research to suggest why these exist.

B. Read the article on <http://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/sociology/socialisation-the-meaning-features-types-stages-and-importance/8529>, then:

• Create a mindmap to show: **how** we are socialised into society; **why**; by **who/what**; **when**.

C. Watch the Real Stories documentary *Gangs of Britain: Liverpool*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aeQ5GYVUFuk>

Write a sociological review of this programme.

How do you think Sociologists might explain this?

How might Sociologists research a topic like this?

Why do you think people join gangs?

What is a gang culture like?

Week 3: Identity

Submit at least 1 of the following activities :

A. Watch the clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHwVypIU3Pg>

In 300 words, do you think a person's identity is given or created?

Use examples and evidence to support your points.

How might sociologists explain identity?

B. Read this article on 'What is Identity?': <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/people-politics-law/politics-policy-people/sociology/identity-question/content-section-1.1> and complete the 4 activities.

C. Make a list of all the different types of identities you have.

In 500 words, explain:

How you got them;

How they developed/changed over time? *Have* they changed?

What made these identities different?

Are they similar to someone else's identity? How?

How might sociologists explain identity?

Week 4:

Families and Households

Submit at least 1 of the following activities :

A. Watch these 2 adverts for McCain chips, one from the 1990s and one from 2017:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9R_QrbLDiw

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJ9fjN1az9g>

Create a similarities and differences chart showing how family life has changed over this time period. Do some further research to suggest why these changes in family life have taken place.

B. Research the changing family in the UK and answer the following questions:

- How has the family structure changed over the past 100 years?

Consider: how government policies have contributed to these changes;

the changes in people's relationships;

the impact of the media;

the changes in people's roles;

religion;

etc

C. Watch the C4 documentary '21 kids and counting': <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/21-kids-and-counting> (free to view; C4 login needed). Write a sociological review of this programme, including:

- What is unusual/surprising about the Radford family?
- Are they what you expected? Why/why not?
- What can we learn from them about family life in modern Britain?
- What pressures do the family face and how do they manage these?
- Is this a 'functional' family, where everything works smoothly for the benefit of the whole, or a 'dysfunctional family'? Explain your view.

If you need help/clarification with any of these tasks, please feel free to get in touch:

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