

Sociology Summer Task

Preparing for A level Sociology

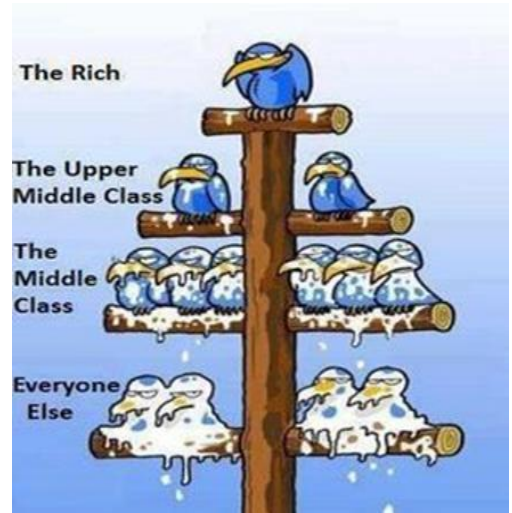


Gender is...

- a spectrum
- a range of expression
- how you relate to yourself
- HELLO my name is
- Me!
- a personal identity

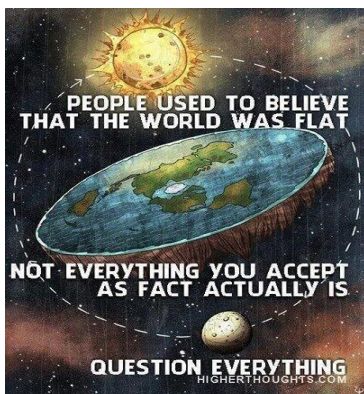
Gender is not..

- just male or female
- defined by body parts
- sexual orientation
- determined by chromosomes



What race do you identify yourself as?

- Asian
- White
- African American
- Hispanic
- Native American
- Human



MR. CHAV
By Roger Hargreaves



Before start your summer task activities, ask yourself 'Why have I chosen Sociology?' and write your ideas below:

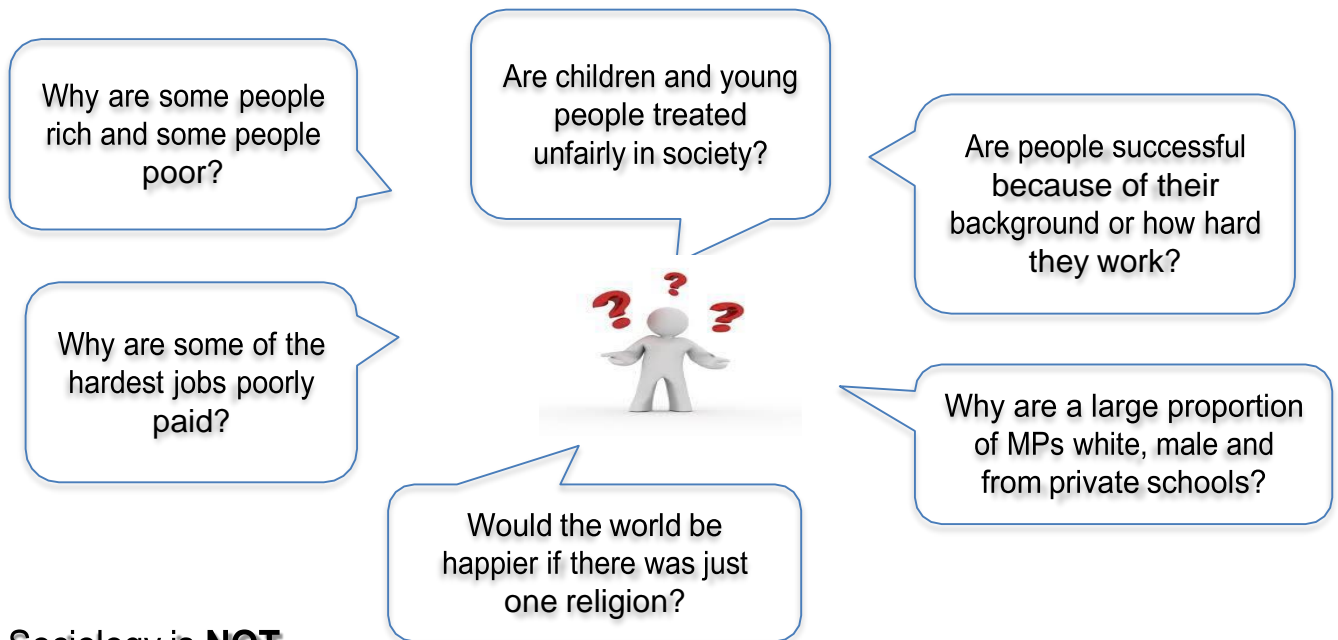
We follow the AQA A-level specification
If you have any questions over the summer email
rachel.jarvie@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk

Sociology is...

1. The study of society, large groups of people and individuals.
2. It studies how and why people behave the way they do in society
3. Looks at how structures such as family and government influence human behaviour
4. A social science which uses research to investigate and predict human behaviour to help governments improve the lives of its citizens
5. 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...



Sociology is **NOT**...

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



As a aspiring Sociologists, you will need to have an interest in the world around you. One way of doing this is engage with current affairs. List 5 headlines from recent news that you think might link in with topics in Sociology. The questions in the speech bubbles may give you some ideas.

A place to start but you can use other sources if you like: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

Quiz

What kind of Sociologist will you be? Circle the answer you agree with the most.

1. The defining characteristic of human behaviour is:

- A) Their gender/ sex
- B) Their social class
- C) Their Race
- D) Their integration into society
- E) Their culture



2. We have the freedom to choose our own behaviour

- A) Yes
- B) No
- C) Depends
- D) Doesn't matter
- E) What is freedom?

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

- A) Family is oppressive to women and teaches us to conform to gender roles
- B) Family is a tool of the ruling class teaching us to obey authority
- C) Family is a vital part of socialisation that teaches us norms and values
- D) Family is what you make it, everyone has a different view on it
- E) 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

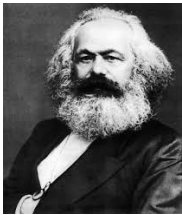
Quiz Answers: What kind of Sociologist will you be?

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 is 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 idea 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. 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!

Theory is a big part of Sociology

Task 1 Facebook activity

Using your allocated Sociologist (from the quiz), we would like you to make a poster in the style of a Facebook profile. We would like to display these in our classrooms and therefore would like you to bring this to your first Sociology lesson. Use the guidance on the template below to help you.

facebook Home Profile Photos Events ▼

+1 Add as Friend

Photo of the
person you are
researching

Profile Picture

Name _____

Theory _____

Birthday _____

Friends – those who share the same
theoretical perspective

My main ideas about society are:

My main ideas cause conflict and debate because:

Three things you should know about me are:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

One question you might want to ask me about the way I understand society:

Theory is a big part of Sociology

Task 2 Functional Functionalists

Read the blog posts below and answer the questions.

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/blog/meet-the-perspectives-functionalism-part-1>

1. Which Frenchman is renowned for Functionalism?
2. Why was he interested in social changes from the move between pre-industrial society and modern industrial society?
3. What do you think a 'collective conscious' is?



<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/blog/meet-the-perspectives-functionalism-part-2>

4. What is society compared to in the organic analogy?
5. What is meant by the organic analogy?
6. What are the two mechanisms for ensuring individuals conform to shared norms of society according to Parsons? (Outline and explain each)

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/blog/meet-the-perspectives-functionalism-part-3>

7. What is one strength of Functionalism as a theory?
8. What is one weakness of Functionalism as a theory?

Task 3 Fiery Feminists

1. Research @ or #EverydaySexism

- a. What is the project?
- b. What examples do they give of modern sexism?
- c. Do you think sexism is still a problem today? Why?
- d. Do ALL women have the experience? Explain your answer.



2. Research examples of gender inequality within the UK in contemporary society.



Theory is a big part of Sociology

Task 4 Magnificent Marxists

Watch YouTube clip and answer the questions:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOGFSUu5UzA>



1. Is society based on conflict or consensus? Explain your answer.
2. What is communism according to Marx?
3. What is capitalism?
4. When was Marx formulating his theory? Why is this important?
5. Who are the Proletariat?
6. Who are the Bourgeoisie?
7. How would the working class change society?
8. What would the new economic/political arrangement be called?

Task 5 Autonomous Social Action Theories

Functionalism, Feminism and Marxism all differ in their approach to explain society. However, they all share one key feature. They are **structural (macro) theories**. This means that they look at society as a whole. Your next task is about **action (micro) theories**. This means they look a smaller parts of society and how they interact to understand society.

Watch YouTube clip and answer the questions:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJrnwOPC2f8>

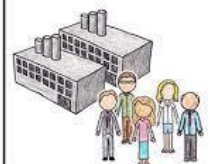
1. What is meant by social action theory?
2. How do we decide meanings behind actions/events?
3. Who is the main theorist?
4. Who focuses on labelling?
5. What is labelling?
6. What can labelling lead to?



MACRO



MICRO



Theory is a big part of Sociology

Task 6 Passionate Postmodernists

Postmodernism is an approach that attempts to define how society has progressed to an era beyond modernity. Within this era individuals are more likely to have a greater importance placed on science and rational thought as traditional metanarratives no longer provide a reasonable explanation for postmodern life.

Watch YouTube clip and summarise some of the key features of postmodern society. Ensure you use key terms. E.g. hybridity.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QqsP0vQJJ44&playnext=1&list=PLA09D91AD0BA40476>



Task 7 Theory Finale

Out of the 5 theories you have researched, which Sociological theory do you most and least agree with and why? Explain your reasons in detail making sure you explain what it was about that particular theory (at least a side of A4)!

We will send out answers to tasks 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 during your first week and we will take this analysis (task 7) in during your first lesson to assess your understanding and engagement with the activity. Remember, we are not expecting you to be experts in theory at this stage. Just try your best to get a good head start. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Bonus Task – Watch some TV/Films

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 (Family and Households, Education, Crime and Deviance and Media).

TV

- Black Mirror (Netflix)
- The Great Hack (Netflix)
- Reggie Yates documentaries
- Dispatches documentaries (4OD)
- Panorama documentaries (BBC iPlayer)
- Greyson Perry (YouTube)

Films

- The Truman Show
- High Rise
- I, Daniel Blake
- East is East
- Made in Dagenham
- Billy Elliot