

A Level Sociology



This research-based project is designed to give you an ideal grounding for A-level study. Research and complete 2 of the tasks (or as many as you like) 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 Sociology.

Present the tasks in any format you like – this could be a PowerPoint or a poster, or a leaflet, or on A4.

The work should be handed in on your first sociology lesson in September.

Good luck and Enjoy ☺

The Sociology Team

Task 1, Topic: Families and Households: Socialisation



Socialisation is how we learn our culture, including language, beliefs and many behaviours.

Sociologists are interested in the role that people play in helping socialise children.



Most Sociologists think that upbringing (nurture) plays a key role in socialising children into different cultures

Feral children are children who spend time growing up without any human contact.

Your tasks are:

- 1) Investigate at least 3 cases of 'feral children'. YouTube has some good documentaries of these to help your research.
- 2) Produce a summary of the 3 cases.
- 3) What do these cases tell us about the importance of early socialisation? (at least 500 words)
- 4) Were your cases able to learn normal human behaviour once they had been discovered? If not then why do you think this is?

Task 2, Topic Education: The Selective Education Debate

“The attainment gap between rich and poor pupils is reduced to almost zero for children in selective schools.”

Prime Minister Theresa May



In September, The Conservatives announced they would be expanding the number of grammar schools in the UK.

There has been an extremely fierce debate over the fairness of grammar schools (selecting by ability) since their conception in 1944., with some arguing that grammar schools unfairly benefit the middle-classes, while others argue that it gives working-class children a chance that they otherwise wouldn't have had.



Your task is...

- 1) To research both sides of the debate. Mail on Sunday columnist Peter Hitchens outlines his position on his blog (in favour of grammar schools <http://hitchensblog.mailonsunday.co.uk/grammar-schools/>), and Wikipedia has a good overview of this debate.
- 2) What position does each of the other political parties take on this issue?
- 3) What do you think? Explain your reasoning. (at least 500 words)

Task 3, Topic: Beliefs: why do some people join religious groups?



Your task...

- 1) Research one or more religious groups of your choice. These could be traditional religions such as Christianity or Hinduism or more alternative religions.
- 2) Create a summary of their beliefs and see if you can find any statistics for how many members they have.
- 3) Can you find a person who belongs to this religion to ask why they are a follower? Or can you find opinions online?
- 4) Write a summary, why do people join religious groups? Give your reasoning. (at least 500 words)

Task 4, Topic: Crime: What caused the London Riots?



In 2011 riots occurred in the UK. They started in London and then spread to other cities such as Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool.

5 people were killed and many homes and businesses were looted or burnt down.

Your task is...

- 1) Research the London riots, produce a summary of the events, how long they lasted and how the disorder spread.
- 2) Research the reasons for these riots; watch YouTube videos and read accounts in news articles at the time. Give reasons for the riots from different perspectives, for example, what did the rioters say – is there any reason to disbelieve their account? What did people from local communities (where the rioting happened) say were the causes, what did the government say were the reasons? State problems/strengths of these reasons as you discuss them.
- 3) In your own personal opinion, what was the main reason why people were rioting? Give reasons for your answer. (at least 500 words)