



Gryphon School

Summer Transition Tasks



Sociology Summer Tasks

Compulsory Task 1 – What is Sociology?

Read the following summary of what Sociology is. In the margin, summarise the ideas. Then, at the end, in brief, note down what interests you about the subject.

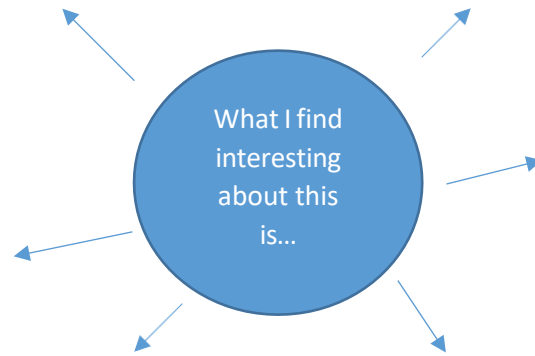
Sociology is the study of human social relationships and institutions. Sociology's subject matter is diverse, ranging from crime to religion, from the family to the state, from the divisions of race and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture, and from social stability to radical change in whole societies. Unifying the study of these diverse subjects of study is sociology's purpose of understanding how human action and consciousness both shape and are shaped by surrounding cultural and social structures.

Sociology is an exciting and illuminating field of study that analyzes and explains important matters in our personal lives, our communities, and the world. At the personal level, sociology investigates the social causes and consequences of such things as romantic love, racial and gender identity, family conflict, deviant behavior, aging, and religious faith. At the societal level, sociology examines and explains matters like crime and law, poverty and wealth, prejudice and discrimination, schools and education, business firms, urban community, and social movements. At the global level, sociology studies such phenomena as population growth and migration, war and peace, and economic development.

Sociologists emphasize the careful gathering and analysis of evidence about social life to develop and enrich our understanding of key social processes. The research methods sociologists use are varied. Sociologists observe the everyday life of groups, conduct large-scale surveys, interpret historical documents, analyze census data, study video-taped interactions, interview participants of groups, and conduct laboratory experiments. The research methods and theories of sociology yield powerful insights into the social processes shaping human lives and social problems and prospects in the contemporary world. By better understanding those social processes, we also come to understand more clearly the forces shaping the personal experiences and outcomes of our own lives. The ability to see and understand this connection between broad social forces and personal experiences — what C. Wright Mills called “the sociological imagination” — is extremely valuable academic preparation for living effective and rewarding personal and professional lives in a changing and complex society.

Students who have been well trained in sociology know how to think critically about human social life, and how to ask important research questions. They know how to design good social research projects, carefully collect and analyze empirical data, and formulate and present their research findings. Students trained in sociology also know how to help others understand the way the social world works and how it might be changed for the better. Most generally, they have learned how to think, evaluate, and communicate clearly, creatively, and effectively. These are all abilities of tremendous value in a wide variety of vocational callings and professions.

Sociology offers a distinctive and enlightening way of seeing and understanding the social world in which we live and which shapes our lives. Sociology looks beyond normal, taken-for-granted views of reality, to provide deeper, more illuminating and challenging understandings of social life. Through its particular analytical perspective, social theories, and research methods, sociology is a discipline that expands our awareness and analysis of the human social relationships, cultures, and institutions that profoundly shape both our lives and human history.



Compulsory Task 2 – A Crash Course in Sociology

Watch the following. It is a very accessible 'crash course' in Sociology. Using what you learn from this, make notes on paper that answer the following question: What is Sociology? What is society? What does the 'sociological perspective' mean?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnCJU6PaCio>

Compulsory Task 3 – Key Terminology

There are many key terms that we use in Sociology. Create a glossary by making a note of the definition of the following:

Marginalised	Society	Perspective
Social class	Ethnicity	Gender
Culture	Values	Economy
Patriarchy	Socialisation	Deviance

Optional tasks – to deepen your understanding and start to build subject knowledge there are a range of tasks to complete below.

- Complete a detailed biography about three Sociologists from the website provided below. You need to make sure you cover their sociological perspective, what theory they were most famous for and if their theories still hold relevance in today's society.
<https://www.thoughtco.com/major-sociologists-4133511>
- Complete a mind map on all the institutions that make up society. Write down what the institution is and how it has an effect on someone's life and choices they may make. Think, how these institutions could change someone's experiences based on gender, ethnicity and class.
<https://courses.lumenlearning.com/wm-introductiontosociology/chapter/reading-introduction-to-culture/>
- Read The Role of Socialisation. Summarise in your own words what is socialisation and why is it so important?
<https://courses.lumenlearning.com/boundless-sociology/chapter/the-role-of-socialization/>
- Complete a Thinking Hard Task to reduce the Sociologies understanding of social inequality using the below articles. You need to make sure you reduce each article into the 5 main points.
[The Sociology of Social Inequality What's the difference between Prejudice and Racism?](#)
[Understanding the Gender Pay Gap and How It Affects Women](#)
[Nature of social inequality \(read all 5 slides\)](#)
- Watch the TED talk and answer the question of the talk 'Does Education Kill Creativity?'
<https://youtu.be/iG9CE55wbtY>
- Read the blog post 'Why I'm no longer talking to white people about race'. Why does Reni Eddo-Lodge no longer want to have the discussion with white people? How does this article make you feel? Reni Eddo-Lodge has written a book with the same title following on from her blog post.
[Why I'm no longer talking to white people about race - Reni Eddo-Lodge \(renieddolodge.co.uk\)](http://renieddolodge.co.uk)
- Complete a mind map on the topics you will cover over the two years using the specification. To stretch yourself, find key words and given their definitions in each topic. [A-level Sociology 7192 | Specification | AQA](#)