

Preparing for Sociology A level

We're very excited to be welcoming you to sociology A level at Hartismere.

Here are some activities which are designed to prepare you for studying A Level Sociology at A level. This is a completely new subject for you and everyone that studies it, so getting a head start will be really helpful!

Task 1: What is Society?

The social world is changing. Some argue it is growing; others say it is shrinking. The important point is that society does not remain static over time; it constantly changes – through decades, centuries; and across countries, societies. Answer the following questions:

- Give 3 different ways society has changed over the last 100yrs – think about the different areas of social life and work.
- Why has society changed? Why are societies different?
- Research the 3 main political parties – Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrats: What are their main ideas? How are they different?

<https://www.parliament.uk/about/mps-and-lords/members/parties/>

<http://simplepolitics.co.uk/questions-and-answers/who-are-the-parties-and-what-dothey-stand-for>

Task 2: What is Sociology?

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

Task 3: How are families different?

Find the definitions for the following key family terms:

- Monogamy
- Bigamy
- Polygamy
- Maternal

- Nuclear family
- Empty nest
- Empty shell marriage
- Extended family
- Kinship
- Cohabitation
- Beanpole family
- Cereal Packet Family

Task 4: How does the news help us understand education and families?

- Find the definition of meritocracy.
- Read the following news article <https://www.tes.com/news/few-one-20-bornpoorest-areas-go-university> and answer the following questions:
- Does this article suggest we live in a meritocracy?
- Why is it important that 'poor' students go to university?
- Find 5 news articles that link to Education and/or Families. Download and print.

Some things to look out for are: immigration, poverty, benefits, exam results, private education, achievement, free schools.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/Sociology>

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/sociology>

Additional tasks:

If you want to do anything extra there are lots of different opportunities.

You could:

- Complete a Future Learn course – What is Sociology? (3 week course)
<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/what-is-sociology>
- Watch some documentaries: Stacey Dooley, Louis Theroux, Reggie Yates on Gangs, Secret Life of 4 year olds, Educating (Essex etc)....
- Watch the news, read the papers, logon to a news app.
- Look at the resources on the Sociology section of tutor2u.

With thanks to <https://www.stpetershuntingdon.org/download.php/Sociology%20Tasks>