

Induction work for AQA Sociology

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology>

Congratulations on joining Sociology A-Level. Before the start of term in September there is some preparatory work you need to complete. This will take about 3 hours in total and will be research based. You will be expected to produce evidence of the work in the **first week** in September (your teacher will let you know what day). Your suitability for the course and attitude to independent learning will be assessed using the work produced. We hope you enjoy.

Studying sociology will offer you an insight into social and cultural issues. It will help you to develop a multi-perspective and critical approach to understanding issues around crime, families, the media and education. Sociology is a really interesting subject that many of you will be able to relate to in one way or another. To get yourselves thinking about Sociology, I would like you to research and complete the tasks below:

Task 1

One of the key questions sociologists are interested in is why some pupils achieve more than others. On average, middle-class pupils do better in education than working-class pupils. To explain these differences sociologists have studied the impact of processes within schools such as the ways teachers label pupils, as well as factors outside school such as children's home background.

- Research the current statistics on class differences in educational achievement. You might like to google news items and consider anything from over lockdown (Top tip – look up the information on pupils receiving FSM)
- Summarise the relationship between social class and pupils' achievement.
- Make a list of possible reasons why pupils from a middle-class background do better than pupils from a working-class background. Divide the reasons into two groups, in-school factors and out of school factors.

Task 1B

- Look at the blog on class differences during covid 19 <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2020/03/27/class-and-covid-how-the-less-affluent-face-double-risks/>
- Summarise the findings in 150 words or less.

Task 2

Another topic we will be studying is gender differences in crime. There are striking gender differences in the patterns of recorded crime. Girls and women appear to commit fewer crimes than boys and men, and when they do offend, females tend to commit different kinds of crimes from males. I would like you to research gender differences in crime statistics using the ONS website and prepare a write up on the following:

- What are the current gender differences in recorded patterns of offending?
- How can we explain these differences using the following:
 - The chivalry thesis
 - Functionalist sex role theory
 - Heidensohn: patriarchal control
 - Carlen: gender deals
 - Liberation thesis.

You are expected to research these online. Recommended websites: tutor2u, ReviseSociology, Earlham Sociology, Hectic Teacher

- Which theory do you think is most useful in explaining gender differences in crime in our current day and age? Rank from most useful to least useful and write no more than an A4 side to justify your reasoning.

Good luck and we look forward to seeing you in September