

Year 11 Sociology Bridging Project

The Sociology bridging project aims to introduce you to the rigours of A Level Sociology and allows you to begin developing your skills ready to hit the ground running when you start the A Level course. It also introduces you to Sociology as a new academic discipline. We study the AQA specification which can be found using the following link.

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/sociology/specifications/AQA-7191-7192-SP-2015.PDF>

The Bridging Project will be divided into four parts.

Part 1: What is Sociology? (1 week)

This section introduces Sociology as a subject considering some of its key terminology.

Task:

Firstly, read the information on the attached Pdf (Introduction PP – What is Sociology?) which informs you about the basics of Sociology and what is expected from an A-level Sociology student at Kimberley College.

Also, please read the attached section of the Ken Browne textbook (Chapter 1) pages 3 to 8.

Find definitions for the following terms and write a definition for each:

Culture, norms, values, socialisation, primary socialisation, secondary socialisation, role, role conflict social control, deviance, subcultures, status (achieved and ascribed), sanctions, life chances.

Part 2: Socialisation debate – Nature vs Nurture (1 week)

You are going to research the importance of the **socialisation process** in human development. Please complete the following tasks before answering the question that follows.

- ✓ Read pages 6 and 7 of the Webb textbook (attached) – including the case study in Box 1.
- ✓ Watch the follow clip about Feral Children.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nv3ocntSSUU>
- ✓ Any further research into feral children and the 'nature verses nurture' debate could be beneficial.

Task:

Using examples from your research produce a written response to the following question.

What do feral children tell us about the importance of socialisation in human development?

Part 3: Social Inequality (2 weeks)

Social inequality is a central theme in A-level Sociology. Inequality is the differences in money, status and power between members of society. Britain remains an unequal society. For example, the richest 10% of Britain own 44% of the nation's total wealth, while the poorest half of the population share

only 9% of the total wealth. As well as Social Class, inequalities exist in terms of gender, ethnicity and age.

Task: Research the issue of inequality within modern Britain for one of the following social groups.

- **Social Class**
- **Ethnicity**
- **Gender**
- **Age**

Produce an informative and engaging PowerPoint presentation or written analysis about your findings.

Things to consider:

1. Focus on areas of life chances for the group you are researching, such as inequalities in education, wealth and income and health. **What evidence and reasons are there given for such inequality?**
2. Try to include contemporary case studies from Britain in support of your arguments – use recent newspaper articles and statistics from the Office for National Statistics.
3. Use sociological terminology if you can.
4. **What evidence is there that this area of inequality is reducing in today's society?**

Useful resources to use:

Webb Textbook - page 11 (pdf attached)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z7gmn39/revision/4>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-48919813>

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2018/jun/08/ageism-widespread-in-uk-study-finds>

<https://www.statista.com/topics/5273/gender-inequality-in-the-uk/>

In addition, please find your own sources and information from Sociology textbooks if possible. Please acknowledge the sources you use.

Part 4: Sociological theory (or perspectives) (2 weeks)

This final section of your Bridging project introduces the theoretical basis of the study of society. There are a number of Sociological theories which have conflicting views about the way society works. Two of the key Sociological theories are Functionalism and Marxism.

Task: A comparison of Functionalism and Marxism

Taking your information from the Browne textbook (pages 11-15) and your own sources, research the Sociological theories of Functionalism and Marxism. I have also attached a PowerPoint which gives a basic summary of the two theories.

Write a detailed response (one side of A4) to the following questions:

- Which view do you think provides the most accurate insight into the way British society is currently organised?
- Is it based on consensus or conflict? Give reasons for your answer with examples to illustrate your points.

Additional Information

Reading List for A-level Sociology

Key textbook: AS Level Sociology: AQA A level Sociology Book One including AS Level by Rob Webb (Author), Hal Westergaard (Author), Keith Trobe (Author), Liz Steel (Author), Napier Press (2015)

An excellent additional reader is:

Sociology for AQA Volume 1 (AS and 1st Year A level) 5th edition by Ken Browne, Polity Press (2015)