



**Shenley Brook End Sixth Form
Summer transition tasks for
A-Level Sociology**

Due date Monday 16 September 2024

A-Level Sociology 2024 Transition tasks

Sociology is about society and the world around us, so it is important that you keep up to date with what is going on in the world. On the following pages, you will find a selection of articles and activities to prepare you for Year 12 A-Level Sociology.

The Sociology Starter Pack

The first task is to listen to the Sociology Starter pack. This will guide you through all the information you need to start a new Sociology course. In part 1 there is an introduction as to what Sociology means and who defined the term. In part 2 is an introduction to 18 key terms that you will hear in Sociology all the time and in the final part is an outline of socialisation and the nature vs nurture debate.

Make some notes while you listen that will prepare you with more understanding of what Sociology will look like over the next 2 years. These notes will be useful in the Autumn term.

<https://www.spreaker.com/user/thesociologyshow/socstarterpack>

Understanding Social Inequalities

During the 2-year course, we will try to understand inequalities and focus on patterns and trends for certain groups. While studying inequality and social mobility, we focus on gender inequalities. The second task is to watch this TED TALK focusing on patterns and trends of boys drastically lagging behind girls across many academic measures. This explains why these struggles in school are indicative of the larger crises facing boys and men and outlines how society could thoughtfully tackle these challenges to work towards a more inclusive, equitable future.

Make brief notes while you watch ‘can society deal with gender inequalities’, ‘can we ever have an equal society’ and why might girls outperform boys statistically in GCSE’s? These notes will be useful in the Autumn term.

https://www.ted.com/talks/richard_reeves_how_to_solve_the_education_crisis_for_boys_and_men/c



Life Chances- is the education system fair for all?

Is the education system fair for all? **Create a written argument** (focusing on both sides) on whether the education system is fair. Some points to consider while you read and listen to the articles: Is the education system meritocratic? Are some social classes more advantaged than others? Does the school you attend matter? Is there inequality within the system for ethnic minorities? Is the social class system reproduced within schools? What impact might this have on future life chances?

<https://www.spreaker.com/user/thesociologyshow/prof-cecile-wright>

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2017/nov/21/english-class-system-shaped-in-schools>

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/default/files/jrf/migrated/files/education-young-people-parents-full.pdf>

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pN36jVSp1x0&t=7s> Additional reading/ super curricular

Nature vs Nurture argument Nature Vs. Nurture: The Big Debate

There are many ways of explaining why certain people do things in certain ways. For example, biologists think that people behave as they do because they are controlled by nature. This is known as Nature theory. Humans are compared to animals and seen to act on instinct. Sociologists believe that people behave as they do because they are taught how to behave. For example, the sociologist Michael Haralambos states: 'human beings learn their behaviour and use their intelligence whereas animals simply act on instinct'. This is known as a Nurture theory of human behaviour. Nurture means the way you were brought up. It is also a reference to socialisation, the lifelong process by which we learn our culture, values, norms and how to behave. Sociologists reject nature theories for two particular reasons. If people behaved as they do because of nature, they would all act the same as each other. We know that people do not all act the same.

The final task is to **write a response to one of the following questions:** What affects human development: nature or nurture? Are gender roles and differences natural or does society impose them? Behaviour is innate and not learnt?

* Additional reading/ super curricular

Is the criminal justice system fair?

Research task: read/ watch/ listen to the sources below, and write 500 words describing whether or not the criminal justice system is fair and why/ why not.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZsHwKPE0mjU> <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/feb/22/institutional-racism-britain-stephen-lawrence-inquiry-20-years>

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2018/oct/13/stop-and-search-is-unjust-unfair-ineffective-david-lammy>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tU1tMhvf3OQ&t=11s>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvMouTYuw7g>

*Super curricular

Submission Date (for students)

Monday 16 September