

A Level Sociology

Year 11 Transition Pack



Welcome to A Level Sociology! This pack is designed to introduce you to key sociological concepts, thinkers, and themes that will form the foundation of your studies. Complete these activities independently. You do not need prior knowledge - just curiosity and a willingness to think critically.

Hello
my name is

Task	Completed
1. What is Sociology?	
2. Key sociological concepts	
3. The big theories	
4. Family case study	
5. Education and inequality	
6. Sociology essay	
7. Wider application	
8. Optional task	

To complete this work, you will need to create your own word document – please clearly label each task

Task 1: What is Sociology? (15 minutes)

Objective: Understand the basic definition and purpose of sociology.

"Sociology is the study of society, social institutions, and how individuals interact within these structures. It explores issues such as identity, power, inequality, and social change."

- Write a short response (around 150–200 words): In your own words, what is sociology and why do you think it is important in today's world?"

Task 2: Key Sociological Concepts (20 mins)

Objective: Familiarise yourself with important foundational terms.

- Find the correct definition and write them in your own words for the following terms:
 - Norms
 - Values
 - Culture
 - Socialisation
 - Status
 - Role
 - Identity
 - Institutions

Task 3: The Big Theories (1 hour)

Objective: Introduce the main theoretical perspectives in sociology.

- Research and create a one-page summary (bullet points or mind map) covering the following theories:
 - a. Functionalism
 - b. Marxism
 - c. Feminism
 - d. Interactionism aka Social Action theory



For each, include

- Key idea(s)
- A founding thinker (e.g., Durkheim, Marx)
- A strength and a criticism
- An example from modern society

Task 4: Family Case Study (1 hour)

Objective: Apply sociological thinking to a key topic: the family.

- Read or watch a short documentary (you could choose one from YouTube such as "The Changing Family" or a short BBC Bitesize video).
Then write a 250-word answer to the question:
"How has the structure of the family changed in the last 50 years, and what might explain these changes?"
- Optional extension: Interview a family member from a different generation and compare their experience of family life to yours.

Task 5: Education and Inequality (30 mins)

Objective: Explore how education reflects wider inequalities.

- Research what sociologists mean by "educational inequality".
- Define: meritocracy, cultural capital, hidden curriculum
- Answer the question (200–300 words) "To what extent is the UK education system fair?"

Task 6: Extended Application Task – Sociological Analysis Essay (1 hour)

Objective: Apply key concepts and theories to analyse a contemporary issue, demonstrating your understanding, effort, and developing essay-writing skills.

- Write an extended answer (400–500 words) to the following question:
"How do sociologists explain the causes and consequences of social inequality in the UK?"

Your answer should:

- Refer to at least two sociological perspectives (e.g., Marxism, Functionalism, Feminism).
- Use at least three key concepts from the earlier tasks (e.g., socialisation, status,).
- Include examples (these can be from education, family, crime, media, etc.).
- Show clear structure (introduction, main points, conclusion).
- Be written formally and proofread for clarity and accuracy.

Task 7: Wider exploration and reflection (30 minutes)

Objective: Introduce sociological thinking through accessible, real-world material.

Instructions:

A. Choose one of the following to read/watch/listen to:

- "Chavs: The Demonization of the Working Class" by Owen Jones (extracts or summaries available online)
- A documentary such as "Educating Yorkshire" or "Panorama: Has Covid widened the education gap?"
- A sociology-themed podcast like BBC's Thinking Allowed (e.g., "Class and Social Mobility" episodes)

B. Reflection Task (200 words):

Summarise what you learned and explain how the material links to one or more sociological ideas or concepts you've explored in this transition pack.

ONCE A SOCIOLOGIST, ALWAYS A SOCIOLOGIST!



The following are suggestions, they are **not compulsory**, but we would love for you to engage in any that you find interesting.



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