**Sociology enrolment task**

**Task 1: A brief introduction to Sociology**

Read Item A below and answer the questions that follow:

Item A:

Sociology is the exploration of how human interaction is shaped by the institutions around us. As a subject, the aim of sociology is to go beyond a common-sense understanding of the social world. Sociologists often want to go beyond what is seen as logical or taken for granted. This is achieved through the use of research methods which allow for sociologists to systematically research the world around them and to be able to draw conclusions from the results. There are a wide range of research methods that allow for more control and objectivity, while others allow for more freedom and subjectivity. Social research methods allow for sociologists to mimic some of the research styles of the natural sciences. Therefore, they would like to be taken as seriously as the natural scientists. Many sociologists argue that governments and politicians should use sociological research as information to inform new laws and policies. However, despite the desire of some sociologists to be seen as equal to natural scientists there are others within the sociological community who do not want this. They argue that the aim of sociology is to disrupt social order and to help liberate oppressed groups in society. They see sociology as encouraging individuals to be more critical of institutions and social forces, to become more aware of oppression and to fight for their rights.

1. In the first paragraph, what does the writer mean by common sense?
2. What is the aim of sociology, as a subject?
3. How is common sense different from sociological thought?
4. Can you think of an example of an oppressed group? (oppression is unfair treatment)
5. Why would you consider them oppressed?

**Task 2: Intersectionality**

Intersectionality is the acknowledgement that everyone has their own unique experiences. Throughout the course the four main intersections you will study are gender, ethnicity, social class and age.

Define the following terms:

1. Gender
2. Ethnicity
3. Social class

Extension: How do these factors impact your life experience/chances?

**Task 3: Globalisation**

Definition: Globalisation is the process by which the world is becoming increasingly interconnected as a result of technology and the internet.

Mind map and identify the ways globalisation has impacted you and your life: (think about your identity, interests etc…)