Subject Context

Sociology is referred to as the *‘science of society’.* It involves the study of society and the people who make up society.

Sociologists are interested in why people behave in certain ways when they are in groups, and they ask questions about things we tend to take for granted.

Sociology is an academic subject that involves studying a range of different points of view as well as helping students to develop their critical thinking skills.

Deadline

Please try and complete this before your normal summer holidays would begin, but at least before the start of college in September.

Estimated time required to complete activity

3 hours

Resources required

You can use

* Internet
* AQA GCSE (9-1) Sociology

Author: David Bown

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(The textbook is desirable but not essential)

Assignment details

In the first term of the GCSE sociology course, you will learn about key sociologists as well as their theoretical approaches. You will also learn a number of key concepts as well as develop an understanding of how sociologists research specific topics within the social world.

In preparation for the course, you should complete the following tasks:

**Task 1**

**Sociological Theory**

Research **one** of the following sociological theories and create an information resource outlining the key ideas:

**Functionalism Marxism Feminism Interactionism**

Ideas to include: key thinker(s), basic beliefs, key terminology, and any other relevant or interesting facts.

**TASK 2**

**Key Concepts**

Below is a list of key concepts in sociology. Find a definition of each concept and create your own glossary of key terms.

* Norms
* Values
* Role
* Ascribed Status
* Achieved Status
* Culture
* Subculture
* Social structure
* Social process
* Socialisation
* Social control
* Value consensus
* Ideology
* Patriarchy
* Self-fulfilling prophecy
* Ethnocentric

**TASK 3**

**Analysing Research Methods**

The following questionnaire has a few issues. Examine the introduction and questions, noting down where the problems lie:

Hi

My name is Sandy and as part of my Sociology work I am doing a study about people’s eating behaviour. I really hope you will fill this in for me because otherwise I might fail the course! Please don’t just bin this – I have spent ages printing it out! Answer every question please and then just give it in at the school office or to your form tutor or even me if you see me.

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Please state how old you are:

0-16 18-25 26-35 36-45 46-55 56+

1. Most people say they over-eat – do you eat too much? Yes/No
2. When are you most likely to eat too much?

In the morning at lunch at tea time

1. How often do you eat too much?

Everyday most days most weeks

1. How many calories should a woman eat? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. How many calories should a man eat? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is your favourite food? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Do you know people who eat too much and are overweight? Yes/No

Please name an example \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Do you know people who eat too little and are underweight? Yes/No

Please name an example \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_