

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. Many sociologists argue that governments and politicians should use sociological research as information to inform new laws and policies. However, others 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.

- a) In the first paragraph, what does the writer mean by common sense?

- b) What is the aim of sociology, as a subject?

- c) How is common sense different from sociological thought?

- d) Can you think of an example of an oppressed group? (oppression is unfair treatment)

- e) Why would you consider them oppressed?

Task 2: Intersectionality

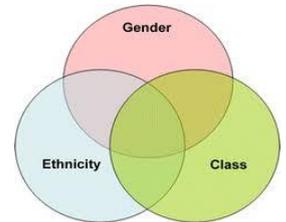
Intersectionality is the acknowledgement that everyone has their own unique experiences. Throughout the course the four main intersections you will study are gender, ethnicity, social class and age.

Define the following terms:

a) Gender

b) Ethnicity

c) 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...)

