

SOCIOLOGY



11 - 12 TRANSITION WORK

Introduction

Before you begin the course this autumn term, we ask that you complete the following transition tasks. These activities are designed to help you prepare for your A Level in Sociology and give you a strong start.

By working through them, you'll begin developing key skills that are essential for success in the subject, such as using evidence to support your arguments, investigating facts, thinking critically, and analysing what's behind the headlines.

We look forward to seeing how you engage with these ideas and begin your journey into the fascinating world of Sociology.

Please bring the work to your first lesson and we will spend time discussing your answers.

1 - Prepare for learning

For this subject you will need the following:

- A ring binder
- A4 notebook
- File Dividers

Please make sure your transition work is printed out before your first lesson.

Tasks for learning

Task 1 - Look at the statements below and then write them out in a list which ranks them in order of the one you MOST agree with, to the one you LEAST agree with.

- a) Society works for the benefit of all.
- b) Women are systematically disadvantaged.
- c) We live in a democracy.
- d) Life is unfair.
- e) The world is run for the benefit of a very small group of people.
- f) Most people cannot see that they spend their entire lives being exploited.
- g) Structures in society exist to help people and the smooth operation of society.
- h) Men dominate.
- i) Gender inequalities exist.
- j) People are judged only in terms of their merit/skills/intelligence.

Take the one from the top and bottom and for each, write a paragraph explaining why you placed it where you did.

Please follow this writing frame: I most agree/disagree with the statement _____. This is because Evidence to support this includes... Furthermore..... Therefore, it is clear that (insert statement) is.... (Valid? Irrelevant? Misguided? Outdated?)

Task 2 - Please read the following article and then answer the questions below.

<https://www.tes.com/magazine/archive/few-one-20-born-poorest-areas-go-university>

1. What is a meritocracy?
2. Does this article suggest we live in a meritocracy?
3. Why is it important that 'poor' students go to university?

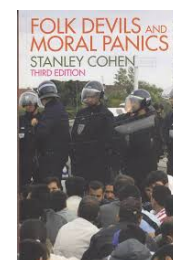
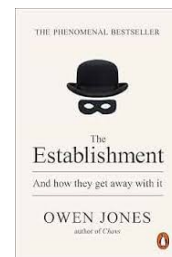
Task 3 - Try searching for at least one of the following titles and make notes on what you have watched or read. Try to keep it relevant to the topics taught in Sociology (education, family, crime and deviance, beliefs). Ideas of things you can read or watch are in the expand your mind section.

3 - Expand your mind

These tasks are not compulsory, but if you would like to delve a little deeper into your subject here are some suggested readings/ watch.

Reading list

- The Establishment and How They Get Away With It – Owen Jones
- The Handmaid's Tale – Margaret Atwood (also a series)
- Outsiders: Studies in Sociology of Deviance – Howard S Becker
- Folk Devils and Moral Panics – Stanley Cohen
- A Glasgow Gang Observed – Patrick James
- Gang Leader For A Day – Sudhir Venkatesh



Watch list

- Any documentaries, including Panorama, Louis Theroux, Stacey Dooley, Mind of a Murderer etc
- Black Mirror series (Netflix)



- Years and Years (BBC i-player)
- The Secret Life of 5 year olds (gender role, education)
- Blood Diamond (poverty, unequal society)
- A Bug's Life or Antz (for Marxism)
- Ted Talks/Sociology
- Coach Carter (education, racism)
- Billy Elliot (class, gender roles)

