

A Level Sociology - Research Induction Task

Only complete the tasks 1 and 2 if you are new to Sociology. If you studied GCSE Sociology please go to the task that gets you to complete your own research.

Examination Board: AQA

The following task/ tasks are to be completed by the start of term and brought to your first Sociology lesson.

Learning objectives:

The task is designed to help you develop some of the skills you will need to study A Level Sociology. Specifically, the ability to take notes effectively, research information from a variety of sources, identify and summarise key points.

The aim is also to give you a background in some of the key areas that underpin the Study of:

A01: Knowledge and understanding of sociological theories, concepts and evidence and sociological research methods.

A02: Application of the A01 knowledge to social issues

A03: Analysis and evaluation of A01 and A02 in order to present arguments, make judgements and draw conclusions

For the tasks below –

1. make detailed notes on your findings in your own words – do not cut and paste from the internet
2. record the sources you used
3. highlight the names of any scholars or theories that are mentioned

Task 1 Research responses to the following:

Topic: Unit 1 – Families and Households

This is one of the first major units that we will study as a group and will be the basis for one of the exams you will take at the end of the course.

Conjugal relationships and gender roles

Research who does what in relationships in relation to gender roles in the family. Source key theory for the gender roles in the family.

Question 1: Define the term ‘expressive role’.

Question 2: Outline and explain two ways in which gender roles have changed over time

Task 2 Migration and Family Diversity

Research what migration is and how we measure it.

Research what family diversity is, what different types of family structures exist and what the norms are in the UK.

Question 1: Using one example, briefly explain how migration may affect family diversity.

Question 2: Outline 3 reasons for the increase in single person households.

What equipment will be needed for the subject?

A4 Lever Arch folder (to retain notes, classwork etc)

File dividers, A4 File paper, Highlighters

Useful websites:

www.s-cool.co.uk/a-level/sociology Summary website

www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/z22fb9q/resources/1 Resource video clips

<http://esociology.co.uk/as-level/family-and-households/> Ppts on key topics

www.nfpi.org - the National Family and Parenting Institute

www.lone-parents.org.uk - a lone-parent support site, which also contains some useful first-hand accounts of what it's like to be a lone parent.

www.oneparentfamilies.org.uk - the site of One Parent Families/Gingerbread. This emerged in 2007 following the merger of the National Council for One Parent Families and Gingerbread. This contains a wide range of useful information relating to the concerns of lone parents.

www.womensaid.org.uk - (the Women's Aid site)

www.crimereduction.gov.uk (search 'domestic violence')

www.surestart.gov.uk - Sure Start

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk - the 'Every Child Matters' website

www.ondivorce.co.uk - a site providing a range of practical advice on divorce-related matters

www.helptheaged.org.uk - Help the Aged

www.ageconcern.org.uk - Age Concern

www.crae.org.uk - Children's Rights Alliance for England

www.childrenscommissioner.org - The Children's Commissioner

<http://www.earlhamsociologypages.co.uk/famtitle.htm> - useful for all topics but this page focuses on family and critical perspectives.

Some Case studies you may wish to research include –

1. **Wilmott and Young – The Symmetrical Family**
2. **Fletcher**
3. **Oakley (1974) – The Sociology of Housework**
4. **Bittman and Pixley (1997) – the Double Life of the Family**
5. **Duncombe and Marsden (1995) – the triple Shift**
6. **Crompton (1997) - Employment and the Family**

[This section to completed by students who have done GCSE Sociology rather than the above tasks.](#)

CONDUCT YOUR OWN RESEARCH:

Your task is to think of an issue within society (any of the topic areas we will be studying – families, education, crime and deviance, the media. you can choose your own issue or use one from the list below:

- defining crime and deviance - how it changes over time and place
- why females commit less crime than males?
- gangs and knife crime
- the impact of social media
- reasons for increases in divorce rates
- international crimes like arms, drugs, human trafficking
- institutional racism within the criminal justice system
- mental illness

Once you have chosen your issue, you need to do the following:

- **Background** - research secondary sources of data to get an overall picture/ background on the issue - use statistics, newspaper articles, government reports , sociological studies etc
- **Planning** - Decide what you want to find out about your issue - write it as an aim/question for your research - and then write what you expect/predict you will find out about your issue
- **Planning** - Decide how you are going to research your issue/aim - e.g. questionnaires/ interviews/ using secondary data etc - identify any strengths and weaknesses of the research method you are going to use. The link will help you <https://revisesociology.com/research-methods-sociology/> For any weaknesses see if you can find any ways to overcome it
- **Planning** - Decide your sample - what type of sample will you and why? <https://revisesociology.com/2016/02/02/stages-social-research/>
- **Carrying out your research** - Conduct your research
- **Analysis** - write up what you found out/ by analyzing your information - are there any trends or patterns/ what explanations are there? Link to your aim and hypothesis - were you right? Compare your findings to other findings from your background information
- **Evaluation** - evaluate how well you carried out your research - the strengths and areas of improvements - how would you improve your work?