



A Level Sociology – summer work

Dear sociologists,

Welcome to A Level Sociology! Please find below a range of activities to give you a flavour of the subject and help you to start developing your sociological imagination.

Task 1: What is Sociology?

Watch the following video: <https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/blog/video-resource-crash-course>

Using ideas from the video, write a **short summary** of what sociology is and how it is different to common sense.

Task 2: Some key introductory ideas

Being a successful A Level student involves being able to read a textbook and summarise this reading in the form of notes. Read the pages provided from our chosen text book "Sociology for AQA Volume 1 AS and 1st-Year A Level" by Ken Browne.

Create a **one page** summary of this information. This summary can be in any form you want but you will be tested on the content in our first lesson.

Task 3: Sociological theories

A sociological theory is a set of ideas that tries to explain human society. In sociology there are lots of different theories and each theory explains human behaviour in a different way and sees different positives and negatives in society. We would like you to find out about three of the main sociological theories we will study using the resources identified below: **functionalism**, **Marxism** and **feminism**. For each, produce a **written summary** of their main views and ideas about society. Which theory do you agree with most and why?

These resources will get you started in learning about each of these perspectives and help you with ideas to include in your summaries:

a) Functionalism

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/reference/what-is-functionalism>

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/reference/sociological-theory-functionalism>

<https://revisesociology.com/2016/09/01/functionalism-sociology/>

b) Marxism

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0GFSUu5UzA&t=53s>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b0b2kpm0>

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/reference/classic-texts-karl-marx-selected-writings-1857-1867>

c) Feminism

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/reference/sociological-theory-feminism>

https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_we_should_all_be_feminists

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/kathycaprino/2017/03/08/what-is-feminism-and-why-do-so-many-women-and-men-hate-it/#3d59eab07e8e>

All of these tasks should be written in your own words. Good luck and we look forward to discussing them with you in our first lesson after the summer.