



**Penistone Grammar School**

Achieving Excellence through a Values Driven Education

**Never Stop Flying**

# **BRIDGING TASKS: WELCOME TO YOUR SOCIOLOGY STUDIES**

**Sociology  
expands our  
knowledge  
of the  
world.**



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## Welcome to your A Level Sociology Studies

We are certain that if you are interested in people and asking questions you will love studying Sociology.

Sociology always asks why and analyses phenomena from different perspectives. At present, during the out break of Coronavirus, Sociologists are asking and researching the answers to many difficult questions such as why people in poorer areas are twice as likely to die as those living in wealthy areas? Why does this virus have a disproportionate impact on BAME groups? Why has lock-down resulted in an increase of domestic violence cases?

Sociology is concerned with the study of all human social life and why certain groups of people behave, achieve and are treated differently from others. Its subject matter ranges from domestic violence to organised global crime; from the divisions of race, gender and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture; from joining a religious sect to be labelled deviant.

To help you prepare for this higher level of study we have developed the Sociology Bridging Booklet. It will introduce you to key concepts of this discipline and provide you with the opportunity to practice the necessary skills to become an excellent Sociologist. We have also provided a reading and viewing list so that you can develop your knowledge further still. Activities that are compulsory because they are **required** in order that you begin to build these necessary skills will be preceded by a red **R**. **Extra** tasks that are not compulsory but are there to help you explore this subject further still will be prefixed with the letters **Ex**.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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## **R Task 1**

This task is designed to make sure that you understand what Sociology is and to develop your note-taking and summarising skills.

Watch the following clip and explain, briefly, what Sociology is and what it focuses on.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnCJU6PaCio>

## **R Task 2**

To be able to express yourself as a Sociologist you need to use subject specific language. Below is an introductory list and you will add to this throughout your studies. Define each key concept in a way that will help **you** to understand it.

<b>Key Concept</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Primary socialisation	
Secondary socialisation	
Deviance	
Norms	
Values	
Culture	
Nature	
Nurture	
Institutions	
Perspective	
Sanctions	
Conflict	
Consensus	

**Ex.** For those of you who want to learn even more key concepts, look at the site below.

<https://www.memrise.com/course/928320/aqa-sociology-key-terms/1/?action=prev>

### **R Task 3**

The following item is will help you understand some of your key terms: nurture, culture, norms and values. Read the article and answer the questions that follow.

#### **The Shirbit Tribe**

The Shirbit culture believes that the human body is ugly and feeble. The Shirbit, therefore, indulge in rituals and ceremonies designed to avoid this, and so every household has a shrine devoted to the body.

The rituals associated with the shrine are private and secret. Adults do not discuss the rituals and children are only told enough for them to be successfully initiated.

The focal point of the shrine is a box built into the wall where key charms and magical potions for the face and body are kept. These are obtained from medicine men, who write down the ingredients in an ancient and secret language, understood only by the herbalist who prepares the potion.

Beneath the charm-box, is a small font. Every day, every member of the family enters the shrine chamber in succession and bows their head before the charm-box, mingling all sorts of holy water in the font and proceeds with a brief rite of absolution.

The Shirbit have a pathological horror of and fascination with the mouth, the condition of which is believed to have a supernatural influence on all social relationships. Were it not for the rituals of the mouth, they believe their teeth would fall out, their friends would desert them, and their lovers would reject them.

Finally, men and women indulge in barbaric acts of self-mutilation. Men engage in a daily body ritual of scraping and lacerating their faces with a sharp instrument, whilst women bake their heads and hair with scorching tools.

1. Using the concept nurture, culture, norms, values and any others that are relevant explain how the Shirbit way of life is different to ours.
2. Using the same concepts, explain the ways in which it is similar.

**Ex.** Research and describe a culture that is polygamous

### **Ex Task**

**Warning:** this activity is about crime and young children and the content of the documentary is upsetting. Using as many key concepts as possible answer the following questions after watching the documentary below.

1. Summarise the main points of the documentary.
2. Whose fault was it that these two boys committed this crime? Give reasons for your view. Do you think it can be explained through the nature or nurture argument?
3. What should their punishment, if any, have been? Why?
4. How can we prevent similar crimes occurring?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TrkQe4tyJnQ>

## **R Task 4**

One of our topics is childhood. To prepare for this watch the following documentary and answer the questions below using Sociological concepts where possible.

1. Do you think that childhood has improved? Why? Why not?
2. Who do you regard as responsible for what is happening to the children in this film? Why?
3. What, if anything, do you think the government should do to tackle cases such as these?
4. Do you think anything that you saw constitutes abuse? Why?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-XegW4wTG9s>

## **R Task 5**

In Sociology we study human behaviour through a variety of research methods. You will study various methods and investigate the strengths and limitations of each. We will also apply these methods to investigating Education.

To help prepare and gain some understanding before you start the course, read the information below and watch the following YouTube clips and answer the questions:

### **Observations:**

This involves the researcher watching participants and recording their behaviour in either a natural or manipulated setting.

There are several different ways to observe people:

- Participant observations: This involves the observer being part of the group they are observing but the extent to which they “join the group” can vary between observations.
- Non-participant observations involve the researcher observing but not joining in with the participants

The research can watch participants overtly or covertly:

- Overt: open – participants are aware that they are being watched
- Covert: hidden – participants are unaware that they are being watched

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BV0INW6vohM&list=PLd5Bp71tSUpbZDbd6D3nl2b\\_rOoty01Hi&index=4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BV0INW6vohM&list=PLd5Bp71tSUpbZDbd6D3nl2b_rOoty01Hi&index=4)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25gw\\_M1hrzQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25gw_M1hrzQ)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXWzwtxtldg&list=PLd5Bp71tSUpbZDbd6D3nl2b\\_rOoty01Hi](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXWzwtxtldg&list=PLd5Bp71tSUpbZDbd6D3nl2b_rOoty01Hi)

Answer the following questions:

1. What behaviours did you see in the clips – *can you make a list of the actions/ behaviours/feelings seen by the children?*
2. Do you think the children acted naturally – *yes/no and why?*
3. What might have happened if they knew they were being watched, and saw their teacher writing down/recording their behaviours in front of them?
4. Are these clips of participant or non-participant observation and why?

**R Task 6:**

Observations can produce different types of data. This is dependent on how you record the behaviours.

Qualitative: Rich in detail (usually a written account)

Quantitative: Numerical data which can be manipulated into graphs and tables.

1. Watch the following video clip- a non-participant, covert observation  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5YckMkwmm4>
2. Create two data sets:
  - a. Complete the tally chart (put a 'mark' every time one of the behaviours occur)
  - b. Write a summary of what happened in the clip commenting on behaviours, attitudes, and emotions (max 400 words)

Categories	Tally
Romance	
Sarcasm	
Slapstick comedy	
Kindness	
Anger/ argumentative	

Questions:

1. Which type of data do you think best represented the clip and why?
2. Why might qualitative data be difficult to use in sociological reports?
3. Can you think of any problems using a 'tally' sheet to record what happened in the episode? – *try and think of 3 problems*
4. Can you think of any strengths of using a tally sheet to record what happened in the episode? – *try and think of 3 strengths?*

Below are lists of books, films and documentaries that hopefully will provide you with some enjoyment over the summer, all of them have some sociological concepts which you may come across over your two years studying Sociology.

### **Reading lists:**

- The Hunger Games – Suzanne Collins
- Crossing the line – lessons from the line of duty – John Sutherland
- Handmaid's Tale – Margret Atwood
- How the world thinks – Julian Baggini

### **Viewing lists:**

- The Hunger Games
- Love is blind – Netflix
- The Stanford Prison experiment
- One Man, Three Wives channel 4
- Louis Theroux's Polygamy
- Handmaid's Tale
- Unorthodox – Netflix
- The innocence files – Netflix
- When they see us – Netflix

### **Preparations for September:**

#### **Shopping list:**

1. An A4 book of lined paper that can be easily torn out and added to your folder
2. Black pens
3. Green pens (for improvement to work)
4. Red pens
5. Coloured pens and highlighters
6. Pencil case
7. A4 lever arch folder – a sturdy one

#### **Textbook:**

This is the textbook that we use throughout your first year studying Sociology if you would like to purchase before you start the course. [https://www.amazon.co.uk/AQA-Level-Sociology-Book-1-Including/dp/0954007913/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?brr=1&dchild=1&qid=1590069230&rd=1&s=books&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/AQA-Level-Sociology-Book-1-Including/dp/0954007913/ref=sr_1_1?brr=1&dchild=1&qid=1590069230&rd=1&s=books&sr=1-1)



