

# A Level Sociology Introduction Summer Project



This research-based project is designed to give you an ideal grounding for your A-level Sociology course.

By researching and completing the tasks independently over the summer, this will help you to get a head start and prepare for the key topics which you will study during your first year of A Level Sociology.

Each task should take approximately 45 minutes to complete. Tasks can be presented in any format (word document/hand written/publisher etc.) The final document must be brought to your ***first Sociology lesson*** after the summer holidays. **Your first mark will be based upon this task.**

Good luck and Enjoy ☺

*Mrs Cross*

# The AQA Course

AS or A Level Year 1

## Topics:

Families and Households  
Education  
Research methods



A Level Year 2

## Topics:

Beliefs  
Crime  
Theory and  
Methods



100% Exam (3 x 2 hour papers), 0% Coursework

# Task 1, Topic: Families and Households: Socialisation



Socialisation is how we learn our culture, including language, beliefs and many behaviours.

Sociologists are interested in the role that people play in helping socialise children.



Most Sociologists think that upbringing (nurture) plays a key role in socialising children into different cultures

Feral children are children who spend time growing up without any human contact.

## **Your tasks are:**

- 1) Investigate at least 3 cases of 'feral children'. Youtube has some good documentaries of these to help your research.
- 2) Produce a summary of the 3 cases.
- 3) What do these cases tell us about the importance of early socialisation?
- 4) Were your cases able to learn normal human behaviour once they had been discovered? If not then why do you think this is?

# Task 2, Topic Education: The Selective Education Debate

“The attainment gap between rich and poor pupils is reduced to almost zero for children in selective schools.”

Prime Minister Theresa May



Last year, the Conservatives announced they would be expanding the number of grammar schools in the UK.

There has been an extremely fierce debate over the fairness of grammar schools (selecting by ability) since their conception in 1944., with some arguing that grammar schools unfairly benefit the middle-classes, while others argue that it gives working-class children a chance that they otherwise wouldn't have had.



## Your task is...

- 1) To research both sides of the debate. Mail on Sunday columnist Peter Hitchens outlines his position on his blog (in favour of grammar schools <http://hitchensblog.mailonsunday.co.uk/grammar-schools/>), and Wikipedia has a good overview of this debate.
- 2) What position does each of the other political parties take on this issue?
- 3) What do you think? Explain your reasoning.

## Task 3, Topic: Beliefs: Is the Burqa oppressive or empowering?



The Burqa (a body length garment with a mesh covering the face) is an item of clothing worn by some Muslim women.

Feminists often believe that girls and women are not given a choice to dress in this way but are pressured by their parents, husbands and the local Muslim community to do so



However, there are signs that Western Muslim girls and women, especially those who are middle-class and educated, are increasingly choosing to wear the hijab in particular.

### **Your task...**

- 1) Research different perspectives on this debate.
- 2) Write your own response to the question, Is the Burqa oppressive or empowering.

# Task 4, Topic: Crime: What caused the London Riots?



In 2011 riots occurred in the UK. They started in London and then spread to other cities such as Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool.

5 people were killed and many homes and businesses were looted or burnt down.

## Your task is...

- 1) Research the London riots, produce a summary of the events, how long they lasted and how the disorder spread.
- 2) Research the reasons for these riots; watch Youtube videos and read accounts in news articles at the time. Give reasons for the riots from different perspectives, for example, what did the rioters say – is there any reason to disbelieve their account? What did people from local communities (where the rioting happened) say were the causes, what did the government say were the reasons? State problems/strengths of these reasons as you discuss them.
- 3) In your own personal opinion, what was the main reason why people were rioting? Give reasons for your answer.