

# Sociology Transition Work 2024

Well done on considering Sociology as an A Level course. The following activities will help you start in September with a knowledge of some of the basic principles that we will use in the course.

Please complete them as well as you can, and I hope to see you at the start of term eager to find out more and to excel in A Level Sociology.



## Sociology at Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre

We follow the AQA A Level specification

- Paper One: Education with Theory and Methods
- Paper Two: Topics in Sociology
- Paper Three: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

Each exam is 2 hours long and assesses your knowledge and understanding, your application of material and your evaluation skills.

## Task 1

Each group of statements represents a sociological theory. Say which ONE statement out of each group you agree with and give reasons why you have chosen it.

### **Statements 1:**

- a. Men dominate.
- b. Gender inequalities exist.
- c. Women are systematically disadvantaged.
- d. All men hate women some of the time. Some men hate women all of the time.
- e. Women are the takers of shit.

I agree with

because

### **Statements 2:**

- a. Society exists in a state of balance.
- b. Society works for the benefit of all.
- c. Structures in society exist to help people & the smooth operation of society.
- d. We live in a democracy.
- e. People are judged only in terms of their merit / skills / intelligence.

I agree with

because

### **Statements 3:**

- a. Life is unfair.
- b. People are not paid enough.
- c. The world is run for a very small group of people.
- d. Most people cannot see that they spend their entire lives being exploited.
- e. Our current system for organising the economy does not work.

I agree with

## Task 2

Watch this clip and write down 5 statements that explain what sociology is

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

1.

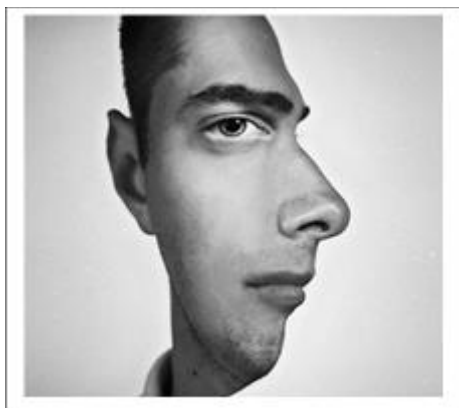
2.

3.

4.

5.

**Sociology** is the study of human social life. There are many different aspects of Sociology to address, so you must be curious and attentive to looking at the world in a different way.



There is usually another way of looking at things – and that is what we do as sociologists.

We take normal, taken-for-granted life and turn it upside down, looking for meanings. And very often we end up seeing things very differently.

## ***Social Change***

The social world is changing. Some argue it is growing; others say it is shrinking. The important point to grasp is: society does not remain static over time; it constantly changes - through decades and centuries and across countries and societies.

### **Task 3**

Think of 3 different ways society has changed over the last 100 years. Try to be specific about the change e.g. homosexuality is no longer illegal.

1.

2.

3.

Now, name 3 ways in which British society is different to another (America, Italy etc.)

1.

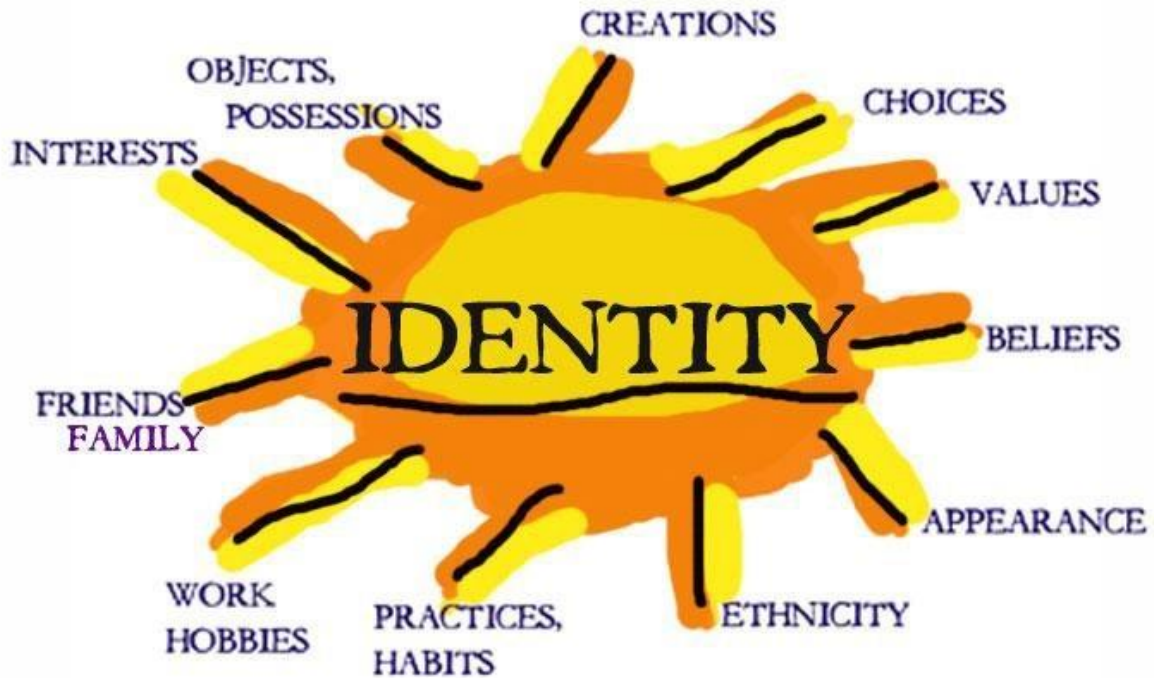
2.

3.

Why do you think has society has changed? Why are societies different?

## Task 4

### *Identity*



Who are you? Are you part of a group, an individual, a student, a sister/brother?

Identity is about how we see and define ourselves - our personalities - and how other people see us. Many aspects of our individual identity are influenced by **agencies of socialisation**. These are structures or groups of people.

Suggest four examples of structures or groups of people that impact upon you:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.



Individuals are like moulded putty, squished and squashed by society and its **structures**, but there are decisions we make that are driven by internal motivations. Behaviour that comes from within us – decisions we make in order to do things – is called **agency**. Agency behaviour is meaningful and a reflection of self-will. Sometimes we can challenge and oppose structures, and in this way we help construct a part of our identity.

List three agency decisions you have made or will make today.

1.

2.

3.

## Task 5

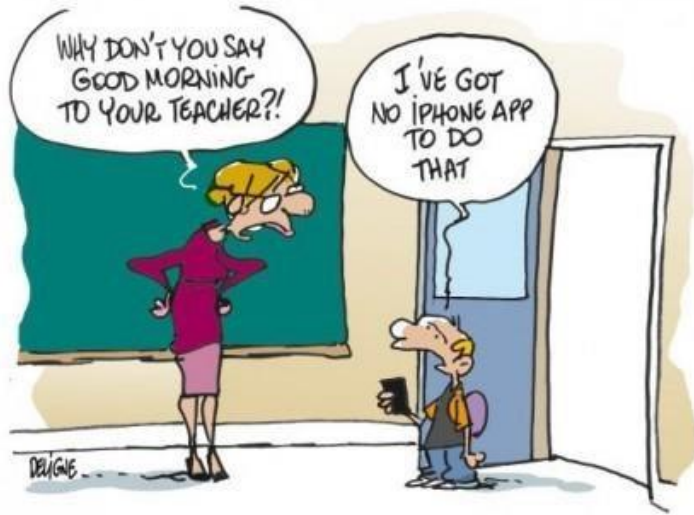
### ***Nature v Nurture: the BIG debate***

There are many ways of explaining why certain people do things in certain ways. For example, biologists think that people behave as they do because they are controlled by nature. This is known as **Nature Theory**. Humans are compared to animals and seen to act on **instinct**.

Sociologists believe that people behave as they do because they are taught how to behave. For example, the sociologist Michael Haralambos states, 'Human beings learn their behaviour and use their intelligence whereas animals simply act on instinct.' This is known as **Nurture Theory**. Nurture means the way you are brought up. It is also a reference to **socialization**, the lifelong process by which we learn our culture, values, norms and how to behave.



Write down a list of things that you were taught by other people about how to behave e.g. how to speak etc.



List:

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

Watch this and write down your thoughts:

1. [Nature Vs Nurture: The Sociology of Human Behaviour \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)





## Task 6

### Social behaviour and culture

Sociology is the study of human groups and social life in modern societies. Sociology recognises that as members of society we have to learn social behaviour and this is done through a variety of social institutions and social groups throughout our lives.

#### WHAT MAKES US HUMAN?

- Are we meant to live alone?
- What would a person be like if they grew up without human contact?
- What would a person be like if they were then introduced into a society?
- Do we need a society in which to survive?
- Can someone be truly human if they grew up without human contact?
- Are we ruled by our instincts? (An instinct can be defined as a complex, unlearned pattern of behaviour that is universal in a species).

Watch the video and compare how, as children, we behave and how Oksana behaves. What has been the impact of the lack of human contact?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nv3ocntSSUU>

Your thoughts:

It should have become clear that humans, more than most other animals, are dependent upon other humans for the most basic needs such as food and shelter.

We do not arrive in this world equipped with a collection of instincts inherited from our parents that will enable us to survive in a potentially hostile environment.

List the key words you have learned so far with their definitions in the table.

<b><i>Key Term</i></b>	<b><i>Definition</i></b>
Sociology	
Identity	
Structure	
Agency	
Nature/Nurture	
Socialisation	
Culture	
Norms	
Values	
Status	
Role	

For your first lesson, we expect you to have the following:

- A folder – labelled with your name on and Sociology (spelt correctly).
- There must be dividers in your folder
- Your own lined paper
- Plenty of plastic wallets.
- A pencil case with the usual but we use highlighters frequently, so have a couple of those
- Your task homework contained in this booklet

We look forward to seeing you in September!

