Sociology

Sociology is the study of society - how people interact in groups. A **level Sociology** examines social behaviour from a variety of perspectives: how it originates and then develops, and the ways people are organised into groups according to distinctions such as class, gender and race. A level Sociology focuses on contemporary society, providing an awareness of the importance of social structure and actions in explaining social forces and issues.

Task

a. In 50-100 words, summarise what you believe Sociology to be.

b. Watch the following video and add to your notes, summarising what you believe Sociology to be.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LK5J0-cM-HE

Task

a. Write a list of everything that you do in the order that you do it in, in the first hour after waking up in the morning.

b. Consider how your daily routine compares to those of your family and peers. List what you do the same and what you do differently. What does this tell us about ourselves as individuals? Are we born with this routine or socialised into it?

c. Find the definitions for the following concepts:
- Agents of socialisation
- Socialisation
- Primary socialisation
- Secondary socialisation
- Norms
- Values

Sociology will help you to think about society in a new and critical light, questioning the status quo and developing a sophisticated understanding of the real issues that affect the society we live in. It is an excellent subject for showing you how society works and for making you aware of the range of conditions that individuals within society experience.

Complete the research tasks below to develop your understanding of real issues that affect the society we live in.

Research Task: Class

a. **Why rich kids are so good at the marshmallow test**
   Read the article and answer the question.
   https://www.theatlantic.com/family/archive/2018/06/marshmallow-test/561779/
   Questions: Define immediate gratification and delayed gratification. What does the most recent research tell us about delayed gratification? How does this link to family structure?

b. **The stark relationship between income inequality and crime**
   Read the article and answer the question.
   https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2018/06/07/the-stark-relationship-between-income-inequality-and-crime
   Questions: According this article, how does wealth influence people's perception of crime?

Research Task: Age

a. **NHS faces staggering increase in cost of elderly care, academics warn.**
   Read the article and answer the questions.
   https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/may/24/nhs-faces-staggering-increase-in-cost-of-elderly-care-academics-warn-dementia
   Questions: What impact is an ageing population having on public services? Is there anything that can be done to change this?

Research Task: Gender

a. **Miss America waves bye-bye to bikinis**
   Read the article and answer the questions. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-44370240
   Questions: What factors have contributed to making this change? How does this link to the objectification of women? How would feminists view this?

b. **The dark side of female empowerment: The rise of Britain's 'gangster girls' running gangs**
   Read the article and answer the question.
   http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/womens-life/10857716/Britains-gangster-girls-The-dark-side-of-female-empowerment-The-rise-of-women-and-females-running-gangs.html
   Question: Are the rise of 'girl gangs' a direct effect of female liberation? How else could they be explained?

Research Task: Ethnicity

a. **Met 'use more force' against black people**
Read the article and answer the question.
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-44214748
Question: Summarise the statistics presented in this article. Is this evidence of institutional racism or wider racism in society?

b. **Secret teacher: The emphasis on British History is depriving students of balance**
https://www.theguardian.com/teacher-network/2018/may/26/secret-teacher-history-bias-school-fear-student-future
Question: Define the term ethnocentric curriculum. What changes would you suggest need to be made, if any, to the UK's education system