



Transition Material

Sociology A-level – Session 1

This series of exercises will introduce you to some of the **key terms** used within Sociology A-level. The key terms are numbered and there are tasks included for you to complete. You will finish by completing a definitions table of each of the key terms, using your understanding from reading the terms.

Once each of these key terms exercise has been completed, there will be some exercises where you can look at some aspects of society and use your new-found knowledge of key terms to help you to understand and discuss what is going on. But that's a few weeks away yet ...baby steps.

Remember, each of these exercises should only take about an hour per week; some may take a little less, some a little more. If you find anything really interesting you can always dig deeper into it yourself – independent learning and further reading is a key skill for all A Level subjects.

Key Term 1: Socialisation

TASKS

1.) Make a list of 8 behaviours that you have been taught are correct to perform in society.

2.) Make a list of 8 behaviours that you know you would get you into trouble in society.

3.) Think about your own development- what things in your life have shaped the person you have become? Your speech, your attitudes, your dress, your interests etc.

What is Socialisation?

This is the most important key term in Sociology. **Socialisation** is the process by which we learn norms and values i.e. the correct way to behave in society. **Norms** are rules that everyone in society is expected to follow. Example of a norm could be treating others with respect, queuing, not physically hurting people, working hard, punctuality and wearing clothes. **Values** are ideas and concepts that are important to people, such as respect. Norms are based on values.

Sociologists believe that we learn what is good or bad behaviour from our society and upbringing. This process is called socialisation and is always happening. It is carried out by specific social institutions. The main institutions that teach us norms and values include: The Family, passes on **Primary Socialisation**- the first people we come into contact with and learn basic right and wrong from. Education, The Mass Media, The Workplace, Religion and The Peer Group, are all sources of **Secondary Socialisation**. Each of these will be discussed later on. Different types of sociologist have different opinions on whether this socialisation is good for us. Norms and values are closely linked. For example, if I value respect and order, then I may follow the norm that we should queue. The values I hold shape the norms that I follow.

Socialisation is the process by which we learn norms and values. Sociologists argue that this happens in two stages: Primary and Secondary (see session 2 next time)

TASK

Do norms and values change? Find an adult that you live with. Firstly, explain to them in your own words what a norm and a value is. Now ask them what norms and values they grew up with that they think have changed over their lifetime and write these down. Then ask which norms and values they grew up with have not changed and write these down.

Watch this video about Norm (he's cool and sick) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1cLfd50BdcE>