

A Level Sociology Bridging work 2025 – Complete all FOUR tasks

"Sociology makes me think about things I wouldn't normally think about and things I normally think about I think about in a totally different way" [Anon.]

Task 1:– Research Contemporary Examples



Sociology is an up to date subject and you will be expected to keep up to date with current affairs and apply contemporary examples to topics taught throughout the course.

- Find TWO news stories which relate to ANY aspect of Sociology. You can use a newspaper article, BBC news website (education/family/crime and deviance sections are useful), blogs etc.
- Think about how your story relates to Sociology. Which topic does it relate to? What are the current patterns and trends? What are the reasons behind the problem/change/debate? Do they relate to class, age, gender, ethnicity, power, government policy or globalisation?
- Prepare either a summary PowerPoint slide or poster for each story. It must include the news story/date/source and some detailed description with the facts and figures, as well as how it might be useful for sociologists. Be prepared to report back to the class about these contemporary examples.

Task 2 - Watch/Listen to TWO of the following talks/podcasts/programmes from the list below.

Write a 250 word summary for each one you watch/listen to

[TED talks](#)



<https://www.youtube.com/@thesociologyshowpodcast/podcasts>



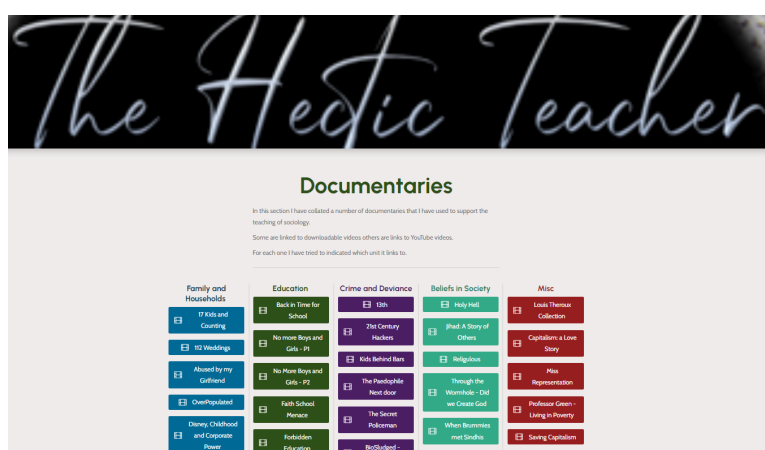
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qy05>



Task 3 – Documentaries

The Website shown below has a wide range of different documentaries and film suggestions:

[Documentaries / SOCIOLOGY SUPPORT | Hectic Teacher Resources](#)



You need to watch at least one of these Documentaries/Films and write up your thoughts on how it relates to sociology. Use the notes below as guidance for your write up. It should be at least 500 words.

It is important that when you are watching these documentaries that you are analysing them as well. But at A-Level it is also important to find and explain the sociological links in the documentary. To do this you should be on the lookout for key concepts such as:

- Sociological Perspectives and how they are illustrated.
- Socialisation
- Norms and Values
- Subcultures
- Nature vs Nurture
- Status and Roles
- Individualism
- Structuralism
- Inequality (CAGES – Class. Age .Gender and Ethnicity)

You should also be aware of how these documentaries link into specific areas of the specification.

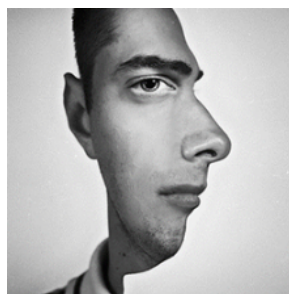
- General Sociology
- Family
- Education
- Crime
- Mass Media

Task 4 - Sociological Perspectives

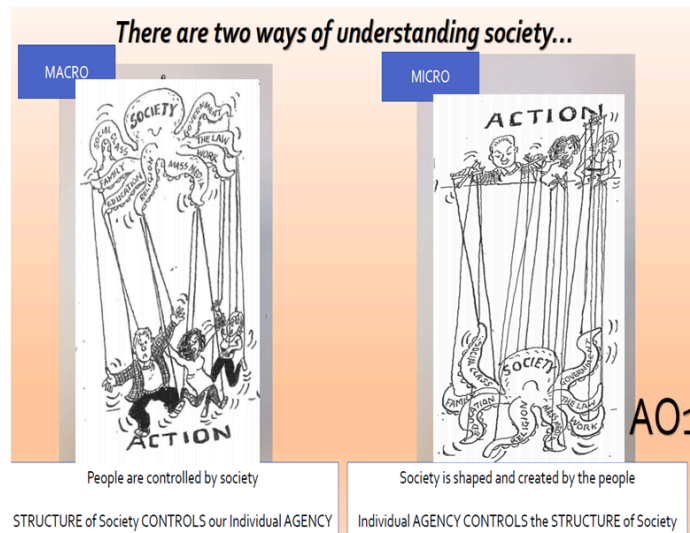
A perspective is simply a way of looking at something.

A sociological perspective is a way of looking at society.

Look at this photograph; not everything is as it seems!



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.



Main Sociological Theories

Macro (Structural) – is concerned with the overall structure of society and the way social institutions e.g. family, education, media and work act as a constraint, limit and control, individual behaviour. The individual is like a puppet whose strings are pulled by society. We might see people almost like jelly being poured into a social mould to set.

Micro (Social Action Theories) : Individual behaviour in everyday situations. These theories are concerned with discovering and thereby understanding the processes by which interactions between individuals and small groups take place, not on the social structure as a whole. They emphasise the free will and choice of individuals

Use the links below to find out about the main sociological theories. For each one summarise the main ideas, concepts (key words) and the key sociologists:

- **Marxist**
<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/reference/sociological-theory-marxism>
- **Functionalist**
<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/reference/sociological-theory-functionalism>
- **Social Action Theories**
<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/reference/sociological-theory-social-action-theories>

You will upload this work onto Google classroom during your first A level Sociology Lesson in September.

Any Questions just ask!

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