



Welcome to A-level Sociology at TDS.

You have been given **2 tasks** to prepare you for A-level Sociology. Completing these will place you in a good position to start your sociological journey.

It is important to be active learners and you will be expected to take responsibility for your learning by exploring sociological issues independently.

TASK 1 – Presentation

We can improve our Sociological knowledge through what we see and hear. Pretty much everything you watch or listen to will have some Sociological themes as everything relates to the Society around us.

You will be asked to give a **5-minute presentation** to share a series, film, documentary, or podcast that you have accessed over the summer and the key takeaways you took from it.

Consider –

- What were the main themes (Gender, Education, Family, Crime, Media, Religion, Stereotypes/labels, Inequalities? Is this an important issue in society? Why?
- Why did you find it interesting?
- Would you recommend that other sociologists engage in your series / Documentary / podcast? Why?

Here are a list of suggestions that you can select from but feel free to choose something of your own instead.

| Series | Documentaries | Podcasts |
|---|---|---|
| <i>When They See Us</i> (Netflix) – themes: crime, institutional racism, media. | <i>The Social Dilemma</i> (Netflix) – themes: social media, Addiction, Capitalism | <i>The Witch Trials of J.K Rowling</i> (The Free Press Society) – themes: transgender movement, feminism, cancel culture. |
| <i>Body in the Snow, The murder of Joanna Yeates</i> (Channel 5) – themes: crime, media, stereotypes | <i>The Truth about Child Poverty: Professor Green Documentary</i> (YouTube) – themes: Poverty, Drug abuse, Education | The Sociology Show |
| <i>Keep Sweet, Pray & Obey</i> (Netflix) – themes: radical religion, religious cults, sexual abuse | <i>Caroline Flack: Her Life and Death</i> (channel 4) – themes: suicide, media, gender, domestic violence | Thinking allowed |
| <i>Mcmafia</i> – Netflix - themes: crime, globalisation, White collar crime | <i>Investigates: Russia's War on Women</i> (BBC iPlayer) – themes: feminism, domestic violence, stereotypes. | Lots of separate episodes available so choose the one that is of interest to you! |
| | | Joe Rogan – Jonathan Haidt (213) Joe Rogan Experience #2121 - Jonathan Haidt - YouTube- themes: media, mental health, families |

Task 2: Sociological theories

A sociological theory is a set of ideas that tries to explain human society. In sociology there are lots of different theories and each theory explains human behaviour in a different way and sees different positives and negatives in society. We would like you to find out about three of the main sociological theories we will study using the resources identified below: functionalism, Marxism and feminism.

For each, **produce a written summary of their main views and ideas about society. Which theory do you agree with most and why?**

These resources will get you started in learning about each of these perspectives and help you with ideas to include in your summaries:

a) Functionalism

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/reference/what-is-functionalism>

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/reference/sociological-theory-functionalism>

<https://revisesociology.com/2016/09/01/functionalism-sociology/>

b) Marxism

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0GFSUu5UzA&t=53s>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b0b2kpm0>

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/reference/classic-texts-karl-marx-selected-writings-1857-1867>

c) Feminism

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/reference/sociological-theory-feminism>

https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_we_should_all_be_feminists [What Is Feminism, And Why Do So Many Women And Men Hate It? \(forbes.com\)](https://www.forbes.com)

Good luck and we look forward to discussing them with you in our lessons after the summer.