



Sociology Induction work

In preparation for you're A Level studies try to read at least one quality broadsheet newspaper (The Times, Guardian or Independent are good) and watch a quality News discussion programme on Television (Channel 4 News at 7, News Night and Question Time are all useful). This will help you understand the context of the topics you will be studying. These websites will help

www.bbc.co.uk/news,
www.guardian.co.uk,
www.thetimes.co.uk

Task 1

Using examples, explain what is meant by the following terms use website www.podology.org.uk click sociology, videos, culture and identity, clip on 10 introductory terms):

Culture
Identity
Socialisation
Norms
Values
Roles
Status

Task 2

Carry out a brief survey of 5 male and 5 female students. Ask them the following questions:

1. Who mostly read to you when you were a child?
2. How many books, other than schoolbooks have you read in the last three months?
3. List your top three leisure pursuits in order of time spent on them.

Bring your results to your first sociology lesson



Task 3

Find out about two of these schools – for example, the cost of fees (and ‘extras’); how to gain admission; school facilities and sport, arts and expeditions available; the range of subjects and examination results.

Some sites have interesting virtual tours you can take

<http://www.etoncollege.com>

<http://www.harrowschool.org.uk>

<http://www.westminster.org.uk>

<http://www.roedean.co.uk>

<http://stonyhurst.ac.uk>

<http://charterhouse.org.uk>

Summarise your findings in a brief report which answers the following questions:

1. Why do students from these schools do so well in their GCSE and A level exams?
2. Why are parents willing to pay so much for their child’s education?

Task 4

Collect newspaper reports about the most recent GCSE and A level exam results and bring them to your first sociology lesson.

Task 5

Choose one of the following questions below that you find the most interesting. Complete your own web research on this question. You can use newspaper articles and any other websites that you think are useful. Write up your findings in an extended piece of writing (use paragraphs). Include a brief introduction and conclusion.

1. To what extent does our social class background affect our life chances?
2. To what extent does our gender affect our life chances?
3. To what extent does our ethnicity affect our life chances?
4. What is the role of institutions in society (schools, families, work, media, government, health) – do they perform positive functions, or simply work in the interests of the powerful and against the powerless? (a related question here is why do our life chances vary by class, gender and ethnicity)
5. How and why has British society changed over the last 50 years?
6. Is British Society today better than it was 400 years ago?

