

## A Level Sociology – Summer Homework 2026

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You are to complete **all** tasks below. You will need to hand your homework to your teacher on your first lesson. If you complete this on a computer, please print it off before your lesson (you are provided with printing credit so you can print this at college).

### Task One: Self-Reflection

*Sociology is concerned with the relationship between the individual and society. As part of your course, you are going to study the Sociology of Education.*

*For most of you, Sociology will be a new subject, but you can all draw upon your own unique individual experiences.*

*For your summer homework we would like you to reflect on your own **education** experiences. Below is a list of questions to answer. Please write in full sentences and try to give as much detail as you can by providing examples or explaining how and/or why.*

- What was your favourite lesson at school and why?
- What was your least favourite lesson and why?
- What makes a good teacher in your opinion?
- Do you think you have ever been treated unfairly at school? If so, explain how.
- Were you ever in a class / school that was being inspected by Ofsted? Did behaviour in the class or school change during this time?
- If you had the power to add extra lessons, what do you think should also be taught to students today?

### Task Two: Research

*Sociology also involves asking questions. We would like you, as a beginner sociologist, **to interview** a friend or family member from an older generation to yourself e.g. friend of the family parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle etc. and **compare their experiences to your own**.*

*The questions below are designed to help you with the interview. You need to write up the interview as part of the summer assignment. Briefly introduce the person you interviewed e.g. my Grandfather, but you do not need to name them.*

- What kind of school did they attend?
- How long did they go to school for?
- What qualifications did they gain?
- Were they educated in this country or elsewhere?
- What forms of discipline did they have at school?
- What are their best memories of school?
- What are their worst memories?
- How do they think education has changed since they were at school?

### Task Three: Wider Reading

It is important, as part of your studies in Sociology, to stay up to date with current affairs and events in society. Choose any article written on any of the following topics: religion, crime, education or the family. There are some useful websites below where you'll be able to find articles.

- 1) Find the article.
- 2) Read the article.
- 3) Write down the date of the article, the author and the source of the article.
- 4) Write a brief summary of the article – this should be between 50-100 words.
- 5) Answer the following questions: what do you think about the subject matter or issues raised by the article? Why is this important for society? Are there certain points that you agree or disagree with, if so what and why? Do you think that there is any truth to this article?

You could, if you wanted to, discuss the article with someone at home to *really* develop your understanding.

If there are words you do not understand, research their meaning or ask someone at home to explain it. Do not worry if there are parts that you find difficult to understand or read, you will get used to reading articles like this as part of studying Sociology.

### **Useful Websites**

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/blog/in-the-news>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/sociology>

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/sociology>

<https://www.discoversociology.co.uk/>

Good luck and we look forward to meeting and seeing you soon! – The Sociology Department at Solihull Sixth Form College.

### **Preparation For Your First Lesson**

Please bring the following equipment to your first lesson:

- A lever arch or ringed folder
- A4 dividers
- Sticky notes
- A4 lined paper or a notepad
- Highlighters
- A black, blue, purple and red pen.