

# SOCIOLOGY TRANSITION WORK

SUMMER TASK FOR STUDENTS STARTING SEPTEMBER 2024

We look forward to seeing you in our Social Sciences Department this September!

## **PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING TASK:**

### **Are you interested in studying A Level Sociology?**

These activities are designed to give you a flavour of the key topics we study in Y12 Sociology, and to start developing your 'sociological imagination'. Complete at least one activity to get a head start and see whether Sociology is the subject for you.

Sociology is...

- The study of society, large groups of people and individuals
- It studies how and why people behave the way they do in society
- Looks at how structures such as family and Government influence human behaviour
- A social science which uses research to investigate and predict human behaviour to help governments improve the lives of its citizens
- A critical and radical subject, it is about questioning why society is as it is. It is about digging under the surface, looking at what is really going on.

Questions budding sociologists may ask...

- Why are some people rich and others poor?
- Are children and young people treated unfairly?
- Are people successful because of their background or how hard they work?
- Why are so many MPs white, male, and privately educated?
- Would the world be happier if there was just one religion?
- Why are some of the hardest jobs poorly paid?

Sociology is not...

- An easy subject
- Just common sense
- Wishy-washy and unscientific
- Psychology
- Criminology

**Families and Households** Submit at least 1 of the following activities :

**A.** Watch these 2 adverts for McCain chips, one from the 1990s and one from 2017: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9R\\_QrbLDiw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9R_QrbLDiw)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJ9fjN1az9g>

Create a similarities and differences chart showing how family life has changed over this time period. Do some further research to suggest why these changes in family life have taken place.

**B.** Research the changing family in the UK and answer the following question: How has the family structure changed over the past 100 years?

Consider: how government policies have contributed to these changes; the changes in people's relationships; the impact of the media; the changes in people's roles; religion; etc

**C.** Watch the C4 documentary '21 kids and counting':  
<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/21-kidsand-counting> (free to view; C4 login needed). Write a sociological review of this programme, including:

- What is unusual/surprising about the Radford family?
- Are they what you expected? Why/why not?
- What can we learn from them about family life in modern Britain?
- What pressures do the family face and how do they manage these?
- Is this a 'functional' family, where everything works smoothly for the benefit of the whole, or a 'dysfunctional family'? Explain your view.

If you need help/clarification with any of these tasks please feel free to email [socialsciences@leggott.ac.uk](mailto:socialsciences@leggott.ac.uk) and state you are starting sociology and struggling