

# Sociology bridging tasks

Sociology is a subject which will be new to most students so it is important to find out as much as you can about the subject and the topics covered as A level. **The first 3 tasks are compulsory** and I need to see evidence that you have attempted these before you enrol. This is because they will show you what sociology is about and allow you to demonstrate the skills and qualities needed for sociology.

1) Visit

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/sociology-h180-h580-from-2015/>

– select A Level Sociology and find out more about the course content and the skills you will develop. You can even look at the exam papers to become familiar with the layout and question types. Now read the extract below and answer the questions which follow.

2) WHAT IS SOCIETY?

## THE SCENARIO

**Well into the future, scientists have perfected a neutron bomb which eliminates people without destroying anything else in the environment. At the peak of increasing international tension you are selected, along with 400 other people chosen randomly (of all ages, children without parents, adults with husbands or wives, single adults), to shelter in a deep mine which it is hoped, will give you some protection. Well, the worst happens and you all emerge a year later with the remnants of the food and water originally stored in the mine. You are the world's sole survivors. Without anyone to come to your aid, you will be forced to construct a new society. How is this to be done?**

**TASK:** The following questions are designed to help you think of the key issues. Although you are being asked to do something highly unlikely, answer each question carefully. Remember that there are no right or wrong answers to these questions.

1. What will you need to survive?
2. How are the day to day tasks to be organised? Who will do what? Who says?
3. Will a leader be necessary? If so, how will that leader be selected? Will everyone have an equal say? What happens to those who disagree?
4. What about those who cannot look after themselves, the old and the young? What about new babies?
5. Will families be encouraged? How will relationships between the sexes be managed?
6. When the new society finally grows or produces things, how are they to be distributed? Who will get what?
7. What about religion?
8. What about leisure?
9. Will the group agree? If not, how are conflicts to be resolved?
10. What will happen about rule breakers?

**WRITE DOWN YOUR IDEAS ON PAPER AND BRING YOUR IDEAS WITH YOU TO YOUR FIRST LESSON IN SEPTEMBER - WE WILL BE DISCUSSING THIS IN GROUPS. If this is the sort of activity you enjoy then**

**you are likely to enjoy sociology. If you don't then sociology is probably not for you.**

3) Watch ... 'Crash course sociology' - these are short 10 minute or so overviews of different areas of sociology. Watch all 4 of the these.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnCJU6PaCio&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtMJ-AfB\\_7J1538YKWkZAnGA&index=3](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnCJU6PaCio&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtMJ-AfB_7J1538YKWkZAnGA&index=3)

[38YKWkZAnGA&index=2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-RvJQxqVQc)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-RvJQxqVQc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RV50AV7-Iwc>

**TASK: Write a heading for each of the four videos above. Make a note of anything that you have learned about sociology from watching the video. Don't worry about writing everything the presenter says. A few of the key points for each area is fine.**

**The following tasks are all optional additional work. If sociology has peaked your interest and you want to explore more (or you are still undecided) these links are useful:**

4) Watch... 'What is Sociology?' A lecture from Dr Lori Peek introducing the discipline of sociology (35 minutes) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TryHsjdV6\\_Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TryHsjdV6_Y)

5) Go online... 'Sociology stuff'. This includes the resources from a sociology teacher/examiner/writer with over 30 years experience. The link below has notes on all the main topics covered in our sociology course:

<https://www.sociologystuff.com/ocr-a-level-sociology-resources>. Read content on 'Socialisation, culture and identity', especially the first 9 bullet points.

Also visit 'ThoughtCo' A comprehensive reference site with a 20+ year focus on expert-created education content <https://www.thoughtco.com/sociology-4133515>. Read content on various areas related to sociology, including fact files on some of the most influential sociological thinkers of all time.

6) Listen to... 'Thinking Allowed' Radio Four discussion programme:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qy05/episodes/downloads> There is a range of podcasts of the programme you can listen to stream or download. There are lots of them so choose the ones that seem interesting to you. They are all sociological in nature and demonstrate the huge scope of sociology in terms of the wide range and areas of social life it deals with.