

Sociology Summer Preparation

AQA Advanced Level SOCIOLOGY.

Sociology sometimes claims to be a science in that many sociologists have tried to understand social behaviour and find laws or patterns that can predict it. Sociologists explore the social world around us; it is the study of **society** and **human behaviour**. Sociologists try to explain what holds society together, the causes of social problems, and the reasons behind social continuity, trends and social change.

Sociologists look for patterns in our behaviour.

Sociologists would be interested that the number of people killed each year unlawfully is roughly about 600-700 in the UK.

Why then is knife crime going up?

Why do the media not point out that gun crime is actually going down?

Task 1

Use the Crime Survey of England and Wales **to explain the patterns of some major types of crime over the last decade** or so. (Note that the survey is done by the government – but is thought to be more accurate than the police recorded crime statistics.) What crimes seem to be going up? Is all violent crime up? Is knife crime up, but gun crime down?

Task 2

Research the patterns of achievement (GCSE) for males and females and from different ethnicities.

Check out how badly children do in some local areas such as Skegness and Grimsby.

What sort of explanations can you give for these patterns?

Task 3

Research and explain carefully what the following sociological terms mean.

Norms

Values

Socialisation

Deviance

Sub-culture

Task 4

Other societies live in very different ways to our own.

Find out about how some people live in different tribes. (The Dinka or Nuer are African examples.)

Make a factsheet about a tribe that has a very different culture to our own. What norms and values do they have?

There are lots of good documentaries about this – search Tribe BBC with Bruce Parry.

Task 5

What happens to children if they are brought up without contact with humans?

Write a short newspaper account of a feral child brought up by animals – Tarzan and the Jungle book are fictional stories based on true life events –

Research some real feral children and explain how they behaved. Could they speak if they were raised by wolves?