

Welcome
To
A Level Sociology



Y11 → Y12 Transition
Summer Work

Name:

Introduction to the Sociological Perspectives

In Sociology, there are three main different sociological perspectives, or ways of looking at society:

1. **Functionalists:** these sociologists believe society runs smoothly, and is made up of different parts which all work together to keep society stable. They believe people agree on what is important (there is a value consensus) and people generally conform to the norms of society. They tend to focus on the positive functions of different parts of society.

Watch this video to find out more:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-83vVeSC2_g

2. **Marxists:** based on the ideas of Karl Marx, they focus on inequalities based on social class (how much or little money someone has). They believe this is the main inequality in society. They argue there are two main classes: the working class (proletariat) and ruling class (bourgeoisie) and believe the ruling class own and exploit the workers, treating them badly and giving them low pay so they can make more money for themselves.

Watch this video and find out more:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSQgCy_ilcc

3. **Feminists:** see gender inequality, inequality between men and women, as the main inequality in society. They argue women are treated badly and exploited by men, and that society is patriarchal (male-dominated).

Watch this video to find out more:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D6DI-9pSW-4>

| | Summary | Image |
|----------------------|---------|-------|
| Functionalism | | |
| Marxism | | |
| Feminism | | |

Tasks:

1. Complete the table to summarise the different perspectives.
2. Add an image/ icon that summarises this perspective.

Read, Watch & Listen

Read



Tasks:

1. Scan the QR code from a Smart Device to access the relevant article or access the relevant article via the link below:
2. Read the article on the Early History of Education.
3. Use the information to create a timeline of the key developments in the Early History of the Education System.



https://www.shortcutstv.com/wpcontent/uploads/2016/10/Stuff_earlyhistory.pdf

Watch



Tasks:

Key Definition: Meritocracy describes a society whereby jobs and pay are allocated based on an individual's talent and achievements rather than social status.



1. Scan the QR code from a Smart Device to access the relevant documentary or access the documentary via the link below:
2. Watch the 'Cutting Edge' documentary – *Too Poor For Posh School*.
3. With reference to the documentary, write an essay response to the question: Is the education system fair?

Steps for Success:

- Reference the key definition above (meritocracy).
- Include the latest data on inequalities in education. This can be accessed via this link:
<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/reference/sociology-data-update-education-stat-pack>
- Comment on how some social groups are disadvantaged more than others.
- You may wish to include how Functionalists, Marxists and Feminists would respond and why.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWYaoWPdUOI>

Listen



Tasks:

1. Scan the QR code from a Smart Device to access the relevant podcast or access the podcast using the link below:
2. Listen to the interview with Professor Cecile Wright, the first black female professor in the East Midlands.
3. List the challenges that can be faced by ethnic minorities in a British education system.



<https://www.spreaker.com/episode/interview-with-professor-cecile-wright--25908686>