SOCIOLOGY STEP UP TO POST 16 CHALLENGE

Minimum Subject Entry Requirements: Entry requirements Grade 5+ in English and Grade 5+ in Sociology GCSE if studied. Although you do not have to have studied Sociology to take it at ‘A’ level.

Challenge 1 - What is Sociology?

Watch the video clip on YouTube: What is Sociology? Crash Course Sociology
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnCU6PaCio and make notes on what you understand about Sociology.

Find the definitions for the following key sociological terms:

- Socialisation (primary socialisation and secondary socialisation)
- Norms
- Values
- Beliefs
- Culture
- Social Class
- Gender
- Ethnicity

Present your findings in the most Sociological way you can! This could be an article for a newspaper, a report, a presentation or visual display. Or you may have another more creative plan.

Challenge 2 - Main Sociological Theories

A theory, for our purpose, is something that explains the relationship between two or more things. A perspective can be defined as a way of looking at and seeing something. To have a perspective, therefore, means to look at something (whatever that thing might be) in a particular way. When we talk about the sociological perspective, therefore, we are talking about the particular way those sociologists, as opposed to non-sociologists to try to understand human social behaviour.

Use the internet to find out about the main sociological theories. For each one explain the main idea and concepts and the key sociologists:

- Functionalism
- Marxism
- Feminism
- Action Theories
- Postmodernism

Which sociological perspective do you agree with? Why?

The YouTube channel below is good for summaries of the main theories:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuualJxTMI-AfB_7J1538YKWkZAnGA
https://revisesociology.com/sociology-theories-a-level/
https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/topics/group/theory-methods-key-terms

Present your research in the form of revision notes- mind maps, graphical organisers or revision posters.
Challenge 3- Sociology is everywhere

Sociology in the media. Sociology is everywhere so you’ll be able to see aspects of it in all forms of media.

Watch at least two of the following. Create a presentation on how it relates to society.

1) What did you learn about society?
2) How does the programme link to the topics you will be studying? Education, Family, Crime and Beliefs.
3) Does it show links to any of the key concepts you learnt about in task 1, eg. Socialisation, culture, beliefs.
4) How would at least 2 theories explain the behaviour in society you have witnessed? For example Feminists, functionalists or Marxists.
   - Stacey Dooley documentaries (BBC iplayer/YouTube)
   - Black Mirror (Netflix) – Nosedive episode
   - School Swap documentary (4OD)
   - Louis Theroux documentaries (Netflix)
   - Panorama documentaries (BBC iplayer) own choice of episode.
   - Channel 4 dispatches (4OD)

Your presentation can be a spark video, PowerPoint, mini documentary or Prezi

Challenge 4- Globalisation

Research globalisation and answer the following:

- What is globalisation?
- How has it occurred?
- What is the debate between globalisation and Westernisation/ Americanisation?
- How might increased globalisation have contributed to the spread of Covid-19?

Now you have completed your research your have to apply it to the following written task: A Sociological Interpretation of the Coronavirus- Year 12

Task: Write an essay on the recent problems caused by the Coronavirus (no more than 800 words)

Paragraph One- Introduction: What is the coronavirus and what aspect of this will sociologists be interested in?

Paragraph Two- What would the theories make of recent events? Marxism should be something to consider here. Marxist are worried about the price of goods going up (give examples). They would also be concerned about panic buying and possibly the selfish acts of some shoppers. Go on line and find some examples. Functionalist would be pleased to see the community working together. Are there examples you can find to back this up? What about the ‘key workers’ lists published by the government. Are some jobs worth more than others? Marxist are interested to see that some’ key workers’ are paid poor wages. Would feminist suggest that women are working and caring for the children. The ‘triple shift’ and ‘emotional support’ could be used here.

Paragraph Three- What is the impact of globalisation on the pandemic?

Paragraph Four- What are the social problems attached to Coronavirus?

- Bringing communities closer together
- Bringing key workers closer together

Conclusion:

The evidence appears to suggest that the Coronavirus is a concern for sociologists because............

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