**A Level Sociology Introduction Project**

This research based project is designed to give you an ideal grounding for your A Level Sociology course. Research and complete the tasks independently over the summer to get a head start and prepare for the key topics within Year one A Level Sociology.

**Part 1**

**Task 1: Functional Functionalists…**

1. Write definitions for Free Will and Determinism.
2. Research Functionalism and produce a fact sheet..

**Task 2: Fiery Feminists…**

3. Research Feminism and produce a fact sheet outlining definitions and provide examples.

4. Research examples of gender inequality within the UK in contemporary society.

**Task 3: Magnificent Marxists…**

5. Research Marxism and produce a fact sheet outlining the difference between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat.

6. Research examples of class inequality within the UK in contemporary Society.

**Task 4: Intriguing Interactionists…**

7. Find out who the sociological interactionists are

8. Outline how they view society

**Part 2**

Complete a Summary table for your notes outlining each approach and stating whether they are:

- Consensus or Conflict Theories

- Macro or Micro Approaches

- Structural or Social Action

Ensure that you define each of the above keywords.

**Part 3**

1. Produce a fact sheet outlining what postmodernism is and what it says about society?
2. Produce a table outlining the differences between a modern and postmodern society.
3. Find examples of postmodernism in crime, the media, religion, and the family.

**Part 4**

 

Socialisation is how we learn our culture, including language, beliefs and many behaviours. Sociologists are interested in the role that people play in helping socialise children. Most Sociologists think that upbringing (nurture) plays a key role in socialising children into different cultures. Feral children are children who spend time growing up without any human contact.

**Your tasks are:**

1. Investigate at least 3 cases of ‘feral children’. Youtube has some good documentaries of these to help your research.
2. Produce a summary of the 3 cases.
3. What do these cases tell us about the importance of early socialisation?
4. Were your cases able to learn normal human behaviour once they had been discovered? If not then why do you think this is?

**Part 5**

 

The Conservatives previously announced they would be expanding the number of grammar schools in the UK.

There has been an extremely **fierce debate** over the fairness of grammar schools (selecting by ability) since their conception in 1944., with some arguing that grammar schools unfairly benefit the middle-classes, while others argue that it gives working-class children a chance that they otherwise wouldn’t have had.

Research:

- the pros and cons of grammar schools

- pros and cons of comprehensivisation

- pros and cons on academies and free schools

Apply the following to what you found out:

- What position does each of the other political parties take on this issue?

- What do you think is the best system and why?

**Part 6**

**  **

In 2011 riots occurred in the UK. They started in London and then spread to other cities such as Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool. Five people were killed and many homes and businesses were looted or burnt down.

Your task is...

1. Research the London riots, produce a summary of the events, how long they lasted and how the disorder spread.

2. Research the reasons for these riots; watch Youtube videos and read accounts in news articles at the time. Give reasons for the riots from different perspectives, for example, what did the rioters say – is there any reason to disbelieve their account? What did people from local communities (where the rioting happened) say were the causes, what did the government say were the reasons? State problems/strengths of these reasons as you discuss them.

3. In your own personal opinion, what was the main reason why people were rioting? Give reasons for your answer.