

Sociology Transition Tasks



<http://www.aqa.org.uk>

Research Methods

Key concepts

We will be starting the course by studying how research is conducted in sociology. The following tasks will prepare you well to study this topic in September.

Task 1: Research the following key terms and provide a written definition/explanation for each. These are difficult concepts to understand so please do not be worried if you do not fully understand them straight away!

- Validity
- Reliability
- Representativeness
- Generalisability

Research Methods

Sociological research

Task 2: Please watch the documentary 'McIntyre Undercover: Chelsea Headhunters' (see Youtube link). Please answer the following questions:

- 1) What do you think Donal McIntyre wanted to find out by studying the Chelsea Headhunters?
- 2) Donal McIntyre used 'covert participant observation' to study the Chelsea Headhunters. What things did he have to do to be able to gain access to the group (list as many as you can)?
- 3) Using the definition of 'Validity' you have researched above, write a paragraph which assesses how valid you think his research was.

Extension – Research ethical issues in sociological research and consider what ethical issues there were in Donal McIntyre's study.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y0nadafM3fY&t=1137s>

Education

Researching education

Task 3: The link below gives you access to following 6 sociological studies:

1. Children researching links between poverty and literacy
2. Fear of debt and higher education participation
3. 'University's not for me – I'm a Nike person'
4. Lads and ladettes in school
5. Race, masculinity and schooling

6. School exclusion and transition into adulthood in African-Caribbean communities



http://212.219.11.68/studentServices/accessToHe/noticeDocs/ss2000_04education.pdf

Choose 3 of the studies above, read them and answer the following questions for each study.

- 1) What did the study aim to find out?
- 2) What method was used in the study?
- 3) What were the key findings of the study?

Extension – What are the strengths and weaknesses of each study? You may wish to consider the following: is the study valid, reliable, representative, and generalisable? Are there any ethical issues? Are there any practical issues such as cost/time consuming etc.?

As a sociology student you will also be expected to keep up to date with current affairs throughout the two year course by watching the news and reading reputable newspapers such as The Guardian (you can do this online for free). Please do this over the summer to get a head start.

Be prepared to feedback to the class on these tasks in your first lesson in September!