

Introduction to Sociology 2019



Summer transition assignment



Helpful hint: Use at least one of the recommended websites or books.

TASK: Study the following slides and do the **11 tasks** highlighted by this icon:



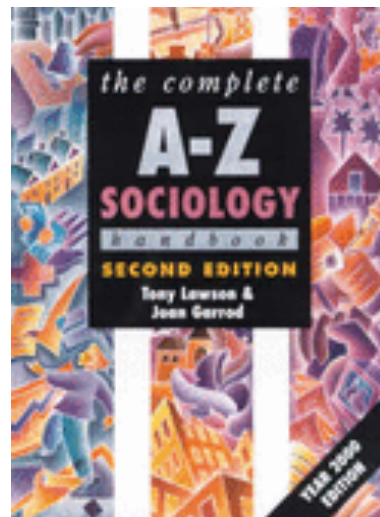
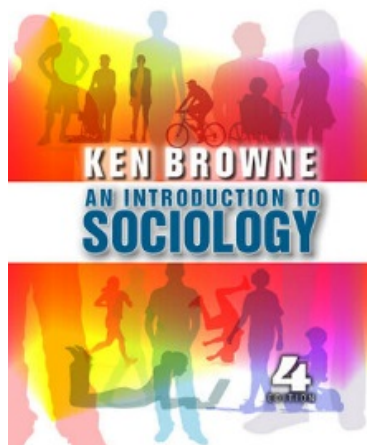
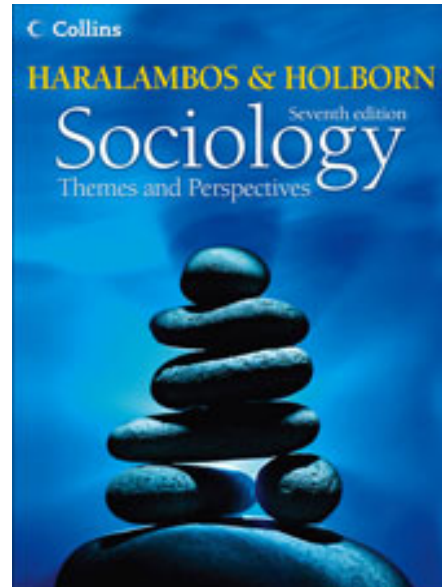
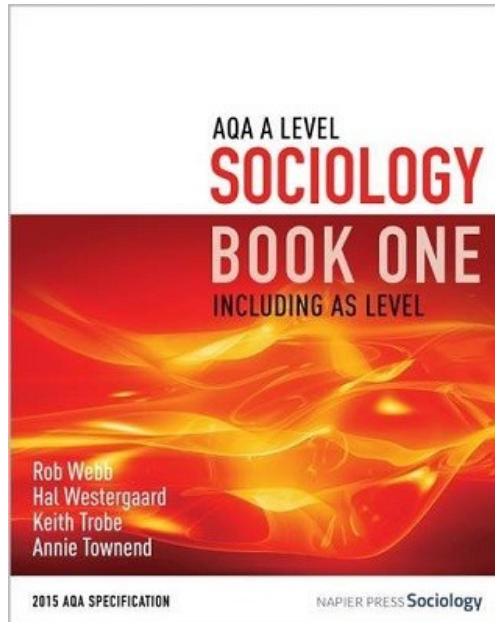
You need to bring this work to your first Sociology lesson.

OBJECTIVES OF THIS SUMMER TRANSITION ASSIGNMENT

By the end of this assignment, you should be able to:

- ❖ Understand what sociology is
- ❖ Analyse what is meant by 'society'
- ❖ Identify some examples of 'social problems' and 'social change' – and provide some explanations for them
- ❖ Analyse some statistical data – to show your level of ability and commitment

Recommended Books from CLCC Library



Recommended sources

Sociology Websites

http://www.sociology.org.uk/AS_Introduction.pdf

<http://www.s-cool.co.uk/a-level/sociology/introduction/revise-it/introduction-to-sociological-thinking>

<http://sociology.about.com/od/Sociology101/a/Introduction-To-Sociology.htm>

<http://study.com/academy/lesson/what-is-sociology-definition-themes-careers-in-sociology.html>

http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/wiki/A-Level_Sociology



News and other Websites

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/>

<http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/>

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

What is A-Level Sociology?

1. Sociology is an easy subject
2. Sociology is mostly 'common sense'
3. It's assessed entirely by exams
4. The course is relevant to all careers
5. You're expected to contribute your own ideas
6. You don't have to write essays
7. Studying sociology makes you a nicer person
8. Some employers & universities don't accept sociology A' level
9. Sociology is just a matter of opinion
10. You can succeed in sociology by simply learning your notes



TASK 1: Decide whether you think the following statements on studying Sociology are 'true' or 'false'. Jot down a brief comment for each statement

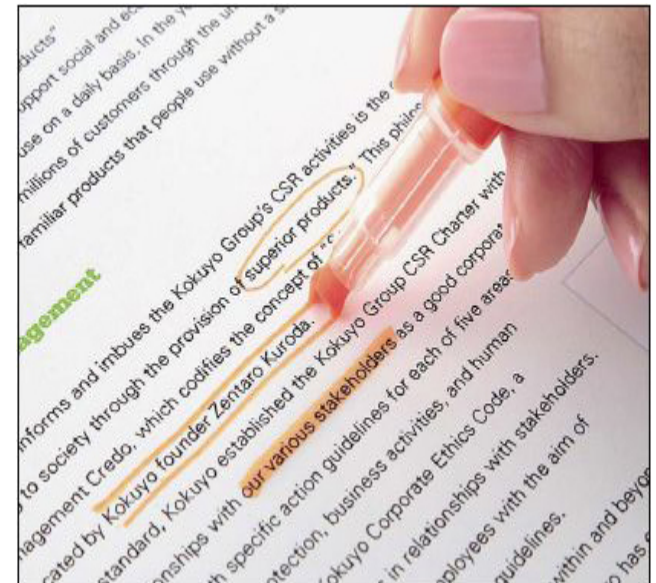
What is Sociology?



TASK 2: Using at least 2 different sources, write down a clear definition of SOCIOLOGY.

Helpful Hints

Helpful hint: Use the A-Z Sociology dictionary from the library



What do we mean by 'society'?

❖ People talk about the *society* we live in, and how *society* has changed in recent years. Some say that *society* influences us, while others say that individuals influence *society*. It's argued that the UK is now a multicultural *society*

❖ But what is 'society'?



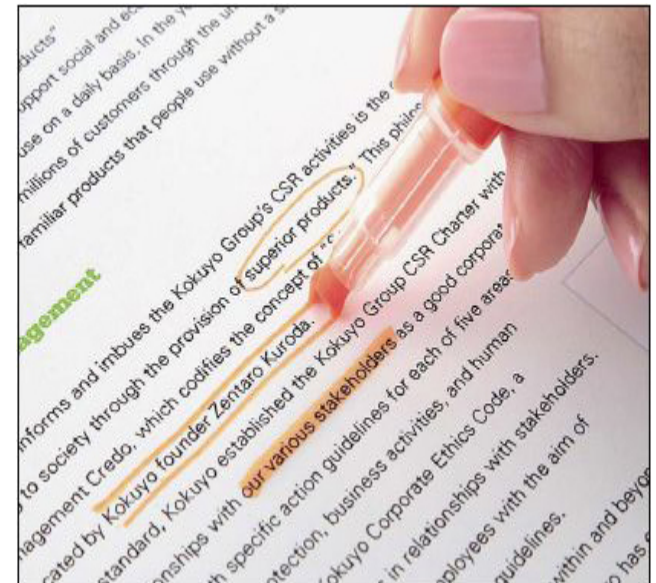
What is Society?



TASK 3: Study the previous slide. Using some recommended sources, write down a definition of 'SOCIETY'.

Helpful Hints

Helpful hint: Use one of the many A-Z Sociology dictionaries from the library



Uninhabited Island

❖ Imagine that your aeroplane crash lands on an uninhabited island. There are no 'relationships', no 'customs' and no 'systems' when you arrive. Watch the 2-minute clip below



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PhCWWdF7fbM>

TASK 4: Have a conversation with parents and/or friends, and write a list under a heading of: *what an island needs for it to be considered 'a society'*



What does sociology look at?

Sociology is an academic discipline that looks at:

- ❖ how people live, behave and work together in groups
- ❖ how societies work – and the roles that their different parts play



Challenge Task: Do some further research (using websites and textbooks) around the topic of 'What is Sociology?'

Social Problems

- ❖ Sociology is particularly interested in ‘social problems’ – and often attempts to influence government social policy which attempts to fix society’s problems

 **TASK 5:** List a few aspects of society that might be described as ‘social problems’



Explanations

- ❖ Sociology explores societies and the groups of people within them – and attempts to provide explanations for why things happen the way they do
- ❖ It challenges 'common-sense' explanations for society and human behaviour – that is often provided by the mainstream media

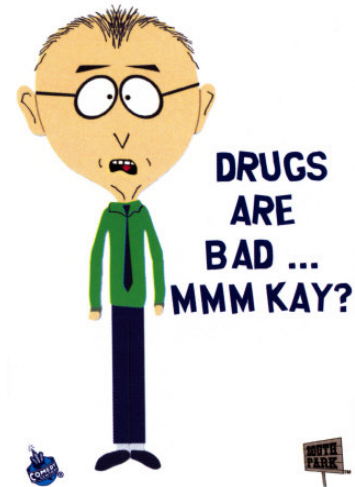


Challenging common-sense assumptions



TASK 6: Think of a 'common-sense' explanation for each of the following aspects of society:

- The UK's high teenage pregnancy rate
- Girls outperforming boys in exams
- The shortage of nurses & teachers
- People claiming unemployment benefits
- The increase in people taking recreational drugs

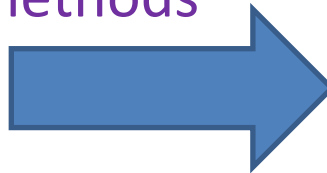


Investigating social problems

❖ Sociology investigates 'social problems' to try to explain them effectively



TASK 7: For 2 of the issues on the previous slide, provide some possible explanations that a sociologist might find - by conducting a thorough sociological investigation using the methods shown in these pictures



Social change

- ❖ *'Social change' refers to: 'changes in social attitudes, in social action and social processes and in the structure of society'*



TASK 8: Write down this definition above

- ❖ Sociology explores 'social change' and attempts to formulate explanations for it



Social Change



TASK 9:

- With regards to six of these issues to the right; write a brief comment on how you think society has changed over recent decades



Helpful Hints

HINT: Speak to family if necessary or use news websites.
Interviewing grandparents would be great!

- ❖ Marriage & divorce
- ❖ Religion
- ❖ Fashion
- ❖ Gender roles
- ❖ Having children
- ❖ Technology
- ❖ Leisure
- ❖ Crime
- ❖ Sexuality
- ❖ The mass media
- ❖ Language
- ❖ Voting
- ❖ Travel & transport
- ❖ Attitudes to mixed-ethnic relationships

Explaining social change

- Sociology tries to explain *why* these changes occur



TASK 10: Return to your work on 'social change', and provide a possible explanation for *why* at least 3 of them have happened



 **Helpful
Hints**

HINT: Use the internet and recommended reading to help you. Also, consider the methods in task 7

What does the A-Level Sociology course involve?

- ❖ Families & Households
- ❖ Sociology of Education
- ❖ Sociological research methods
- ❖ Global development
- ❖ Sociological theory
- ❖ Crime & Deviance



COMTE MARX
DURKHEIM
PARSONS ELIAS
BERGER DOUGLAS
HABERMAS
WEBER SIMMEL
BOURDIEU

academic



THE NEXT SLIDE CONTAINS THE FINAL
TASK



THIS WILL BE HANDED IN, AND WILL
BE ASSESSED

READ THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY



Assessment

- ❖ To enable us to assess your literacy, numeracy and analytical skills at the start of the course; complete the following task. This should be completed on a separate piece of paper, and handed in during your first Sociology lesson. **Let's see if you can follow some simple instructions!!!!**

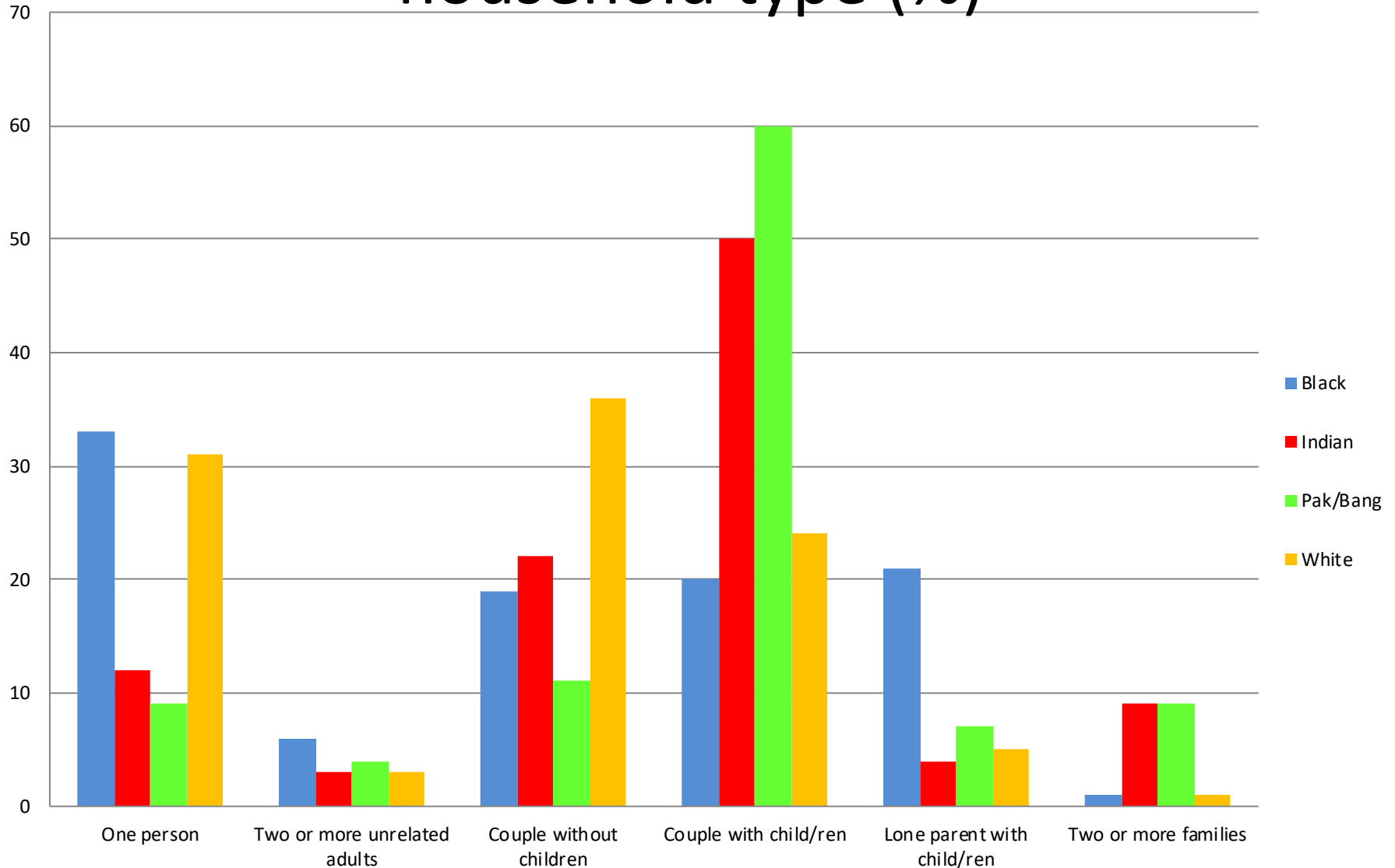


- ❖ **TASK 11 : Study the next three slides, and write a 400-500 word report of your analysis of the graph on ethnicity and household type**

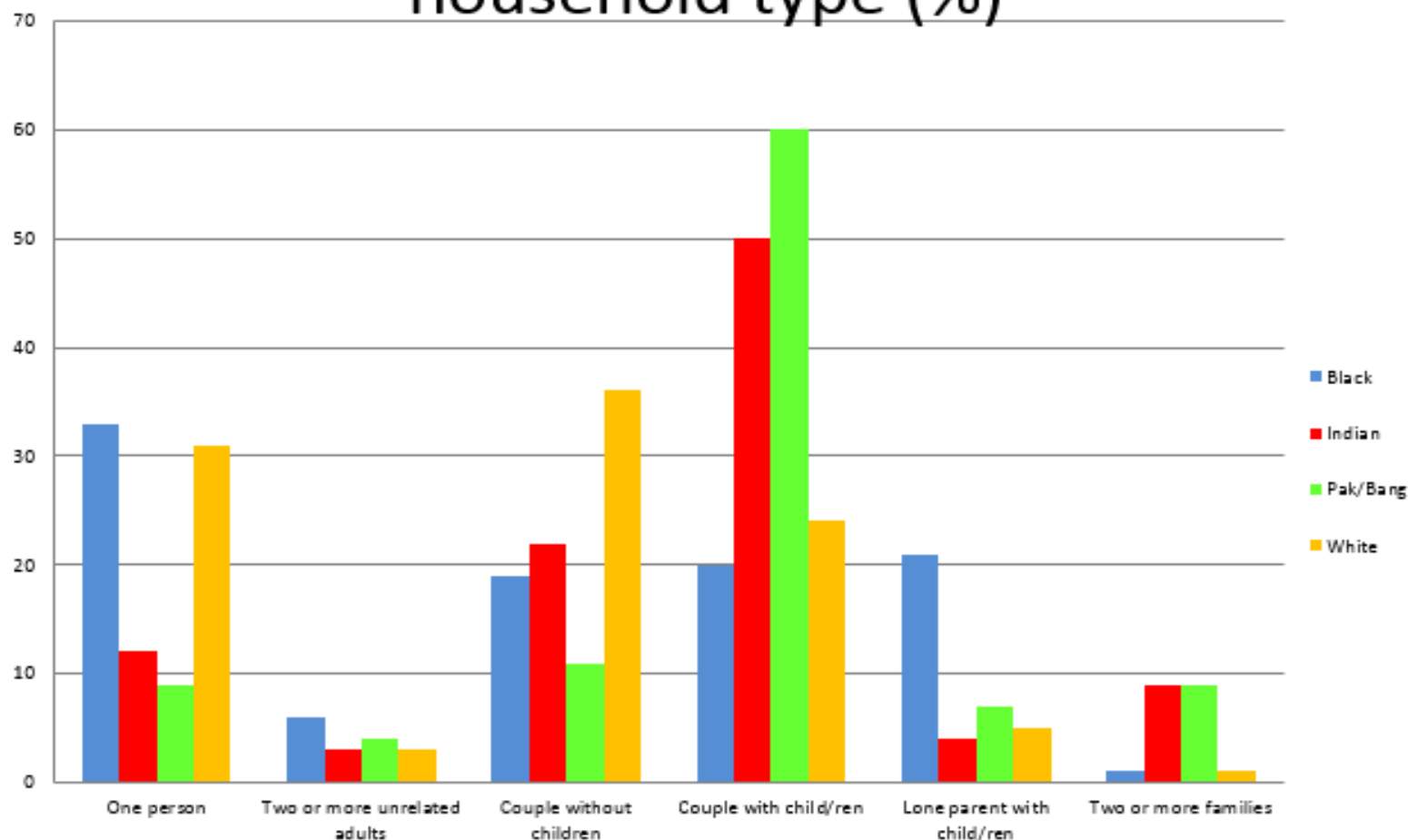
Assessment instructions

- ❖ Study the graph on the next slide. Carefully analyse it, perhaps discussing it with someone else before writing (**note that**, because it's about percentages, each ethnic group adds up to 100)
- ❖ **Note that** not all ethnic groups are represented on the graph (e.g. Chinese people are not included), and that 'Pak/Bang' refers to Pakistani/Bangladeshi.
- ❖ **Note that** the household's ethnicity refers to the ethnicity of the household's adult male – or the adult female where no man is present.
- ❖ Your report should be **no less than 400 words, and no more than 500**. It should:
 - ❖ refer to any interesting comparisons and contrasts,
 - ❖ attempt to explain such differences and similarities
 - ❖ discuss any potential problems with the graph's likely accuracy (N.B: utilise the Sociology textbooks in the library to help you with this task - you need the sections entitled 'Official Statistics')
 - ❖ word-process it, and present it appropriately (e.g. paragraphs, title, proof-read)
 - ❖ bring it to the first lesson – without fail!

The relationship between ethnicity and household type (%)



The relationship between ethnicity and household type (%)



This is a back-up. It's a screenshot, just in case the previous slide doesn't work properly