



## Sociology Summer Assignment

*Your summer assignment must be submitted in the **first lesson for this subject in September**. The completion of this assignment is compulsory and we expect you to put every effort into completing it to the best of your ability. Failure to submit this assignment will jeopardise your place on this course.*

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**Sociology is concerned with the relationship between the individual and society.** As part of your AS course in Sociology, you are going to study the Sociology of Education. For most of you, Sociology will be a new subject and Education will be a new topic area. However, what you all have is an individual experience of schooling. **For your La Swap Summer Assignment, we would like you to reflect on your own experiences of education in this country or elsewhere.** Below is a list of questions you need to answer. You may choose to complete the project in continuous prose or answer each question individually. Please write in full sentences and try to give as much detail as you can.

- Where did you go to primary/secondary school?
- When did you start school?
- What are your earliest memories of school?
- What makes a good teacher in your opinion?
- What were your favourite lessons and why?
- Outside lessons, what else have you enjoyed about school?
- What has been the best thing about school so far?
- Do you think you have ever been treated unfairly at school –is so, explain how.
- If you could change one thing about school, what would this be?
- If you were appointed Secretary of State for Education what changes, if any, would you make to the education system in England and Wales?

**Sociology involves asking questions. We would like you, as a beginner sociologist, to interview a friend or family member from an older generation to yourself- e.g. friend of the family, parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle and compare their experiences of schooling to your own.** What differences and/or similarities did you find? The questions below are designed to help you with the interview. You need to write up the interview as part of the summer assignment too. Briefly introduce the person who you interviewed, e.g. my Grandfather, but you do not need to name them.

- What kind of school did they attend?
- How long did they go to school for?
- What qualifications did they gain?
- What were the sizes of classes?
- Educated in this country or elsewhere?
- Timing of school day?
- What forms of discipline did they have at school?
- What were their attitudes to school?
- Best memories of school?

### **Extension task**

Imagine you have been recently appointed Secretary of State for Education in a new Government. What changes would you make to the education system in England and Wales? Make sure you can explain your new policies and their aims.

### **Assessment criteria**

#### **Grade A\***

This is an exemplary summer assignment. It has exceeded all of the assessment criteria and gone beyond the demands of the project.

#### **Grade A**

This is a sophisticated and conceptually detailed research project which reflects on your own personal experiences of schooling. Your assignment has successfully addressed all of the requirements of the project and made comparisons between the experiences of two generations. It includes a detailed write-up of the interview with an older family member.

#### **Grade B**

This is a very good research project which reflects well on your own personal experiences of schooling. It has addressed all of the requirements of the project and made comparisons between the experiences of two generations. It includes a detailed write-up of the interview with an older family member.

#### **Grade C**

This is a good research project which has addressed most of the requirements of the project and researched the experiences of two generations. It includes a sound write-up of the interview with an older family member and reflects on your own experiences of school.

**Grade D**

This is a satisfactory research project which has addressed some of the requirements of the project and it is likely to include a brief and limited write-up of the interview with a family member. There is little personal reflection on your own schooling.

**Grade E**

This is an unsatisfactory research project which has not addressed the requirements of the project and it will require you to rewrite it.

Good Luck.  
The Sociology Department