

Summer work – A level Sociology



Sociology is about society and the world around us so it is important that you keep up-to-date with what is going on in the world.

On the following pages, you will find a selection of articles and activities to prepare you for Year 12 Sociology.

The last page of this booklet has a number of ideas if you wanted to extend your ideas further but this is not compulsory.

Thanks,

Mrs Eaton-Hill & the Sociology Team

e.eaton-hill@theredhillacademy.org.uk

"Knowledge is power" - Foucault

ACTIVITY 1

Research definitions for the following key concepts that are used in Sociology (you will be assessed on these in the first week of Year 12):

<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Bourgeoisie	
Capitalism	
Communism	
Equality	
Equity	
Exploitation	
Ideological control	
Inequality	
Norms	
Patriarchy	
Private property	
Proletariat	
Public property	
Social class	
Social control	
Social facts	
Socialisation	
Socialism	
Value consensus	
Values	

“Theories and findings in the social sciences are likely to have practical and political consequences” - Giddens

ACTIVITY 2

Research: Conservative Party and Labour Party

Read the information about the two UK political parties and create a detailed summary about each of them by completing the table that follows.

Conservative and Labour Party Comparison

The difference between Labour Party and Conservative Party is essential to understand. The United Kingdom is a parliamentary democracy in which the people vote for representatives to the House of Commons.

When were the Labour Party and Conservative Party founded?

The Labour Party was founded in 1900 as a party of the working class and trade unions. The Conservative Party was founded in 1834 and is associated with the landed gentry, big business, and the church. Both parties have evolved, and their policies have changed to reflect the changing times.

This article will compare the ideologies, policies, and governing structures of the Labour Party vs Conservative Party.

What are the ideologies of the Labour Party and Conservative Party?

The Labour Party is a centre-leftist political party that promotes social justice, equality, and workers' rights. The Conservative Party is a centre-right political party that operates on a platform of individualism, free markets and a limited role in government intervention.

The Labour Party aims to generate a more equitable society by transferring wealth and power from the elites to the general population.

The party believes state action is essential for obtaining social and economic equality, emphasizing the government's responsibility to provide citizens access to fundamentals such as healthcare, education, and housing.

The Conservative Party promotes reduced taxation, deregulation and a smaller government, theorising that the private sector is more effective than the public sector in delivering services.

What are the policies of the Labour Party and Conservative Party?

The Labour Party's policies focus on promoting equality through public expenditure, redistribution and progressive taxation. The Conservative Party's policies emphasise

economic growth and job creation through tax cuts and reduced regulation of businesses.

The Labour Party proposes public ownership of sectors such as energy and transport, housing market reform through creating affordable homes, regulating the private rented sector, and tackling climate change by expanding renewable energy sources and decreasing carbon emissions.

The Conservative Party aims to reduce the budget deficit. They plan to cut public spending on welfare and public services.

The party favours privatising some industries, such as the railways, reforming the housing market through greater housebuilding and home ownership, and investing in renewable energy to combat climate change. However, it places less emphasis on this matter than Labour.

How do Labour Party and Conservative Party approach governance?

The Labour Party believes in a strong and active government that intervenes in the economy and society to achieve social and economic equality. The Conservative Party believes in a small government that does not interfere in people's lives or the economy.

The Labour Party believes that the government should have a role in regulating markets, providing public services, and creating employment. The party also supports devolving power to local communities and promoting participatory democracy.

The Conservative Party believes that the government should only provide essential services such as defence, law and order, and healthcare. The party also supports a strong central government and is opposed to the devolution of power to local communities.

What is the attitude of the Labour Party and Conservative Party towards social issues?

The Labour Party is generally more socially liberal than the Conservative Party and is committed to promoting equality and diversity. The Conservative Party is generally more socially conservative than the Labour Party and is committed to promoting traditional values and social cohesion.

The Labour Party supports policies such as same-sex marriage, gender equality, and multiculturalism. The party also supports the legalization of cannabis for medical use and decriminalising drugs for personal use.

The Conservative Party opposes same-sex marriage and has been criticised for its record on gender equality. The party also takes a tough stance on law and order and is committed to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.

Here is a table below summarising some of the key difference between Labour Party and Conservative Party in the UK:

Difference between Labour Party and Conservative Party

	LABOUR PARTY	CONSERVATIVE PARTY
Ideology	Centre-left	Centre-right
Key Values	Social justice, equality, workers' rights	Individualism, free markets, limited government
Economic Policy	Increase public spending, progressive taxation	Cut taxes, reduce regulation, promote private sector
Social Policy	Tackle inequality, provide public services, social care	Emphasize traditional values, law and order, social cohesion
Attitude towards Europe	Pro-European Union (EU), support continued membership	Eurosceptic, supported leaving the EU
Approach to Governance	Strong and active government, regulate markets, promote local democracy	Limited government, provide essential services, strong central government

Difference between Labour Party and Conservative Party (Labour Party vs Conservative Party)

Note that this table is a simplified summary, and there may be a difference between Labour Party and Conservative Party within each party depending on individual politicians or specific policies.

Conclusion: Labour Party vs Conservative Party

Labour Party vs Conservative Party represents two very different visions for the future of the United Kingdom.

The Labour Party is committed to creating a fairer and more equal society by redistributing wealth and power from top to bottom. In contrast, the Conservative Party is committed to promoting economic growth and reducing the state's role in people's lives.

While both parties have their strengths and weaknesses, it is crucial for voters to understand the differences between the two parties and their policies. Ultimately, the choice of which party to support will depend on the individual voter's values and priorities.

Reference: [Difference between Labour Party and Conservative Party \(2023\)](https://onlydifferences.com/difference-between-labour-party-and-conservative-party/)
[\(onlydifferences.com\)](https://onlydifferences.com/)

<u>Labour Party</u>	<u>Conservative Party</u>
----------------------------	----------------------------------

--	--

ACTIVITY 3

Read the article below and answer the questions that follow

As few as one in 20 born in poorest areas go to university

Teach First analysis finds those born in some of the richest areas 18 times more likely to attend university than those in some of the poorest areas

Only one in 20 pupils in some of the country's poorest postcodes progress to higher education, according to new analysis by Teach First.

The charity has called for the government to improve entry rates by [writing off student debt to get better teachers into challenging schools](#). It has also called on universities to start offering university access programmes at primary level.

According to Teach First's research, on average only one in five young people born in the country's poorest postcodes progress to university, while half of those born in the wealthiest postcodes do so. However, the gap is even more stark between some areas.

Big differences

For example, in some parts of Derbyshire, as few as one in twenty students go to university, while in parts of Buckinghamshire it is more than 80 per cent. This means that those born in some of the richest areas are up to 18 times more likely to attend university than those in some of the poorest areas.

Teach First also found big differences between the choices made by disadvantaged young people when it came to university compared to their more privileged peers.

A ComRes poll of 18-25 year olds found that 41 per cent of the most advantaged students said they chose their university because it was the best for what they wanted to study, compared to only 31 per cent of the least advantaged. Disadvantaged students are more likely to choose an institution close to where they live, with 29 per cent saying they chose their university on this basis, compared to 24 per cent of the most advantaged. Of the most disadvantaged pupils who did not go to university, only 12 per cent said this was because their grades weren't good enough.

What is meritocracy?

Does this article suggest we live in a meritocracy?

Why is it important that 'poor' students go to university?



EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

ONCE A SOCIOLOGIST, ALWAYS A SOCIOLOGIST!

The Sociology department would love for you to continue to stay cognitively engaged over the coming weeks and months. The following are suggestions, they are **not compulsory**, but we would love for you to engage in any that you find interesting.

	<div> www.theguardian.com/education/sociology www.nytimes.com/topic/subject/sociology www.tutor2u.net/sociology/blog www.soc.washington.edu/news https://theconversation.com/uk </div> <div> www.sociologysal.blogspot.com www.gendersociety.wordpress.com www.creativesociology.blogspot.com www.sociologylens.net https://www.britsoc.co.uk/ </div>
	<div> www.anchor.fm/allsociology www.measureradio.libsyn.com/podcast www.socialsciencespace.com/author/socialsciencebites </div> <div> www.soundcloud.com/thesociologicalreview www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qy05 www.anchor.fm/digital-sociology-podcast </div>
	<div> www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/topics/Sociology_of_culture Black Mirror www.channel4.com/programmes/dispatches </div> <div> www.ted.com/talks?topics%5B%5D=sociology BBC Panorama </div>