

PROJECT TASKS SOCIOLOGY



*An opportunity for you to start your
journey to A Levels #GOFURTHER*



PROJECT TASK

What is self-identity?



Getting you thinking:

1. Identity cannot be found or fabricated but emerges from within when one has the courage to let go.”-**Doug Cooper**
2. "I don't want to be remembered as the girl who was shot. I want to be remembered as the girl who stood up." - **Malala Yousafzai**
3. “Identity is a prison you can never escape, but the way to redeem your past is not to run from it, but to try to understand it, and use it as a foundation to grow.”-**Jay Z**
4. “All the world’s a stage,
And all the men and women merely players;
They have their exits and their entrances;
And one man in his time plays many parts”
— **William Shakespeare**

What do you think these quotes mean?

Stretch: Watch this Ted Talk on the social construction of identity.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-tJGZ_xSZ0

Question: Is your identity given or created? What do you think?

Welcome to A-Level Sociology!

Sociology is a social science concerned with the study of human social relationships and the various ways these relationships are patterned in terms of social groups, organisations and societies.

Preparation for A-Level

In preparation for coming to join us we have designed a project for you to complete on some key sociological topics! You can present your final project in the form of a document, poster, video or podcast. All prospective students can complete a project and there will be a prize given to the best projects.

Throughout this booklet there are a set of tasks for you to complete that will help you construct your project. You should complete each task as it is vital to your understanding of identity.

For your final project you can create your own title/question around identity or answer the following question: ***How is identity created?***

What is identity?

Throughout much of your A-level studies, you will spend time considering the argument. Are we as human beings controlled by society and the institutions (e.g. government, education etc.) or do we in fact control these institutions and society?

The definition of identity:

The definition of identity is who you are, the way you think about yourself, the way you are viewed by the world and the characteristics that define you.

Making links to the Alevel topics!

- **Family and Household Module:** We consider identity through; the position of women, the stereotyping of masculine and feminine traits, the identity of children and their experience, working class values and middle- class values.
- **Education Module:** We consider identity through; anti school subcultures (gangs), stereotyping of certain students, are boys treated more negatively than girls, ethnicity and achievement.
- **Mass Media Module:** We consider identity through; the different ways men and women are shown stereotyped in media, how disability is represented, how we view sexuality and the invisibility of LGBTQ+ characters and ethnicity media as scapegoats or criminals.
- **Crime and Deviance Module:** We consider identity through; those who are stereotypically more likely to offend based on aspects of identity (class, age, ethnicity, gender) and those who have offended based on their identity (class, age, ethnicity, gender). Also, those who are more likely to be victims and those most likely to be potential victims.

Task 1: Using this definition write a summary of how identity can lead to stereotypes/stereotyping.

Hint: *What do you know about the process of stereotyping and can you give an example?*

Stretch: Create an argument that everyone in the world is a stereotype

Considering how identity is created and researching theoretical perspectives of identity

Watch the clip that explains Charles Cooley's Theory called the 'Looking glass self'
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bU0BQUa11ek>



Theory of the Looking-Glass Self

Self-perception is influenced by an individual's:

- Beliefs about how he or she is perceived by others
- Observations of how others react
- Interpretations of how others react

In summary – Cooley says we are all just mirror images of society. To explain this further, think about the clothes you wear, are you wearing them because you have seen a similar outfit on someone else and thought 'that's cool!' and so you have copied.

Young men see a lot of people their age playing football and that's what is socially acceptable for all young men to do, so they also play football.

Girls are constantly under pressure from social media regarding their body image and they see these 'ideals' online and in such, copy.

Task 2: Using the clip and information above, demonstrate Cooley's theory through a picture or photograph/video.



Stretch: Create a summary either written or voice over explaining the theory in your own words

Task 3: Using the media available to you and your own knowledge, how has media impacted your identity.

Consider how social groups are portrayed in the media such as gender, social class, ethnicity, sexuality, age etc. Self-reflect on the things that make you, you!

What do you think has been the biggest influence on this? Is it the media or something else?

Media Link



In 2019 Nike released a campaign for female equality within sports and media coverage of women. Below are the 4 advertisements;

Dream Crazier - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pqy3qgvDMkY>

Dream With Us- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHcWPVbDArU>

Dream Further - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOVkEHADCg4&t=30s>

Never Stop Winning - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S29GZOR-k9U>

Task 4

Using images online or out of magazines – create a collage of how women have been previously stereotyped in the media. You could consider – sexualised, body image, housewife

Task 5

Watch this Ted Talk – How are men represented by the media?

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= X6i3g27sCQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6i3g27sCQ)

Are men harmed by being men? Write your thoughts down
(Consider and research masculine traits expectations, male suicide rates)

Stretch – Link to the family and the expectations of men within the family

Task 6: Further reading on identity

- The New Yorker - How Social Media Shapes Our Identity
<https://www.newyorker.com/books/under-review/how-social-media-shapes-our-identity>
- Flare - Hey Jameela Jamil, Your 2014 Feminism Is Showing
<https://www.flare.com/celebrity/jameela-jamil-feminism/>
- The Register- Social media affects teens' self-esteem, personal identity
<https://www.omahacentralregister.com/1366/opinions/social-media-affects-teens-self-esteem-personal-identity/>
- Gov.UK Future Identities: Changing identities in the UK – the next 10 years
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/275752/13-505-social-media-and-identity.pdf

Read through each of these articles and make key notes on facts/statistics that are relevant.

Compile this research into a paragraph to summarise the impact of social media on people's identity.

If you have suggested a *negative* impact- then what would be the solution?
If you have suggested a *positive* impact- then can you identify a negative consequence?

Task 7: Class, education and identity

Watch the clips below and write down the differences between the English rugby and English football teams singing the national anthem. Think about their body language, expressions and passion.

Clip 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EY7F5jOPTIM>

Clip 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OD8PCfJ4jk0>



What do you think the reasons are why they behave and react in such a way?

Write a short paragraph to summaries this using the following points to help.

Hints:

- What class do you think rugby / football players are?
- What do you think the social / economic background of both sets of players maybe?
- What types of schools do you think they attended?
- What activities / assembles do you think they may have done differently in school to have such a different reaction to signing the national anthem?
- Who do you think when onto complete a university degree?
- Do you feel that the education of the rugby / football players may have played a role in how they react / sign the national anthem?

Stretch Question: How far does a person's education in the United Kingdom today help to form their identity?

Task 6: Book/Journal Review

Write a short book or journal review that you have read in relation to the topic of identity.

Consider:

1. Who is the author and when was it published?
2. What format is it; book, article, journal, website?
3. What were the key points within that you felt were relevant to the topic?
4. What are your opinions on the points raised in the journal/book?

Further reading

- Mead, G. H. (1913) *'The Social Self'* *Journal of Philosophy, psychology and scientific methods* 10. Canada: Brock University.
- Goffman, E. (1990) *The Presentation of self in everyday life*. St. Ives: Penguin Books.
- Gauntlett, D. (2008) *Gender Modernity and Self Identity*. London: Routledge.
- Giddens, A. (1991) *Modernity and Self Identity*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Giddens, A. (2009) *Sociology. 6th ed.* Cambridge: Polity Press.
- ley, C. H. (1956) *Human nature and the social order*. New York, NY: Free Press.

Final project

Using; the new knowledge, you have learnt, the resources and any others you must create a final project.

This can be in the form of a document, poster, video or podcast.

You can create your own title/question around identity or answer one of the following questions:

Does society create our identity or do we as individuals, create our own identity?

Does social media have a significant impact on our identity?

Does education have an impact on our identity?

Does your social class matter anymore in modern society?

Is female media representation sexist?

Are men harmed by male expectations?