

Preparation for A Level: General Studies / Sociology Research Project

Task

1. Select the question that interests your most.
2. As a starting point use some of the suggested material to get you thinking about the topic.
3. Make clear notes when you research. These can be a Mind Map or Cornell Notes. You will need these to complete your final piece.
4. Do your own research! You may find additional useful websites/ films/ documentaries/ news websites that support your area of research.
5. Discuss the question with people in your house or over social media with friends (remember social distancing!)
6. Be sure to keep a note of all the different information sources you use. This will be your reference page.
7. Create a final piece bringing your learning together. In this you have to show you can confidently explain the topic and that you have identified different opinions that exist within your research. Finally you need to evaluate your research findings and use them to give your own justified opinion on the research question
8. Your final piece can take a variety of forms. It could be a journal article, a essay, a presentation, a vision/ mapping board (think police crime board!)



General Studies / Sociology Research Questions

Euthanasia: Murder of mercy? Should helping someone to die become legal in the UK?

The act of helping someone to die as an act of mercy is illegal in the UK. However, this is a contentious issue often raised in politics and in wider society. As more countries around the world are changing the law about assisted dying, should the UK do the same?

Key things to consider

- What is Euthanasia?
- Why might someone seek Euthanasia?
- What is the current law on Euthanasia in the UK?
- What is Dignitas?
- What are the different laws on Assisted dying around the world?
- What are some of the risks of legalizing assisted dying?
- How would you change the law? Be specific?
- What examples of people seeking Euthanasia are there?
- What might different perspectives be on Euthanasia ie- Extinction rebellion, NHS, scientists, religion, police , people with long term illnesses?
- What are some of the protests groups that exist around euthanasia?

Suggested resources

Below are a list of things you can read/ watch/ listen to.

These are just a starting point. Your research may uncover some other great examples. Be sure to log them for your reference page!

Basic facts:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/euthanasia/overview/introduction.shtml>

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2019/jul/15/euthanasia-and-assisted-dying-rates-are-soaring-but-where-are-they-legal>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/euthanasia-and-assisted-suicide/>

Pro Euthanasia: <https://www.dignityindying.org.uk>

<https://www.mydeath-mydecision.org.uk/>

<https://www.dignityindying.org.uk/assisted-dying/the-law/tony-nicklinson/>

Anti Euthanasia

<https://www.carenotkilling.org.uk/about/>

<http://notoassistedsuicide.org.uk>

Films and TV:

[Me before you](#)

[Short stay in Switzerland](#)

[Terry Paratchet choosing to die](#)

[Million Dollar Baby](#)

General Studies / Sociology Research Questions

Traditional religions, Cults and New Religious Movements.-Are we becoming less religious?

Its is often said that in the western world we are becoming secular (less religious). But is that really the case? Have people really given up on religion and ideas of a God? Or is the way people demonstrate their beliefs just changing? Is the purpose and meaning of religious belief different for some people? Does this matter?

Things to consider-

- What does religion offer people?
- What are the main world religions?
- What are the statistical patterns in religious belief?
- What countries/ societies live under religious law?
- What is a cult?
- What examples of cults are there?
- What is a new religious movement?
- What examples of new religious movements are there?
- Who benefits from religion? In what way do they benefit?
- How can religion be used as a tool for social control?
- What do key psychologists think of religion?
- What do key sociologists think of religion?

Suggested resources

Below are a list of things you can read/ watch/ listen to. These are just a starting point. Your research may uncover some other great examples. Be sure to log them for your reference page!

Types of religious movements. <https://www.cliffsnotes.com/study-guides/sociology/religion/types-of-religious-organizations>

New Religious movements<https://www.britannica.com/topic/new-religious-movement>

World religion statistics <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/03/this-is-the-best-and-simplest-world-map-of-religions/>

Why do people join cults? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kB-dJaCXxA>

Cults explained https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6NWifiv1_XQ

Sociology of religion: <https://www.cliffsnotes.com/study-guides/sociology/religion/sociological-theories-of-religion>

Psychology of religion: <https://www.reonline.org.uk/subject-knowledge/16-plus-philosophy/the-psychology-of-religion/>

Freud and Jung on religion <https://www.philosophyzer.com/a-comparison-of-freud-and-jung-on-religion/>

General Studies / Sociology Research Questions

Nature or nurture? A study into human behavior. Is human behavior innate or learnt?

How much are your choices influenced by society? Your peers? The law? Social situations? Or is it more likely that the type of person you are and the way you behave is decided by your biology?

Key things to consider

- What do we mean by nature or nurture?
- What things are dictated by nature?
- What things are dictated by nurture?
- What is conformity?
- What experiments exist about conformity?
- What is obedience?
- What experiments exist about obedience?
- Are there any examples of how people behave when all 'nurture' is removed?
- Which has the biggest impact? Nature or nurture?

Suggested resources

Below are a list of things you can read/ watch/ listen to.

These are just a starting point. Your research may uncover some other great examples. Be sure to log them for your reference page!

Nature Vs Nurture <https://www.simplypsychology.org/naturevsnurture.html>

Blue eyes brown eyes experiment explained:

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/introduction-2/>

Blue eyes brown eyes experiment video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGvoXeXCoUY>

Conformity and obedience:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=18&v=yr5cjyokVUs&feature=emb_logo

<https://www.simplypsychology.org/milgram.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OSsPfbup0ac>

Stamford prison experiment: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KND_bBDE8RQ

<https://www.prisonexp.org>

Genie Feral child:

<https://www.verywellmind.com/genie-the-story-of-the-wild-child-2795241>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjZolHCrC8E>