



Subject: Sociology Pre-University (Extension Material)

Know It (Knowledge)	Use It (Application)	Stretch It (Development)
<p>Topic: Social stratification All areas of sociology, at all levels discuss the way society is stratified. Underlying all systems of stratification and differentiation is the concept of power. All sociologists accept stratification in society but disagree over the basis of power. research then summarise the general view of functionalists, Marxists and feminists and their view of differentiation in society.</p>	<p>Watch the TED talk 'Wisdom of Sociology' to remind you of the nature of this subject and the connections and synoptic links of all the topics. Use research from transnational companies such as Coca-Cola, Disney, CNN, HSBC etc to support the Marxist view that Modern industry has created a world market to benefit the bourgeoisie.</p>	<p>Find out how Tumin criticises the view of functionalists Davis and Moore- consider your view on both sides. Consider the Marxist view that it is possible to end stratification and create equality for all. Write a response to this view-do you agree or not? Why? Find out ways the government try to reduce excessive income and wealth. Should they do this?</p>
<p>Topic: Theory The most recent alternative view held in Sociology is that of Postmodernists. This theory is as yet a perspective but is fast becoming one of the key viewpoints in sociological issues. Therefore, you need to gain a good understanding of their standpoint. Research the work of Lyotard, Lyon and Baudrillard and discuss their views on meta-narratives and a media saturated world.</p>	<p>Read about the scandal called the 'Social Text' affair in 1996 www.physics.nyu.edu/faculty/sokal/ To what extent does this devalue the postmodernist viewpoint?</p>	<p>Write an argument discussing your view on whether or not postmodernism is a viable theory or whether postmodernism is itself a meta narrative.</p>
<p>Topic: Feminism Remind yourselves of the three main strands of feminism. In a table summarise their views on gender differences in education, religion, family and crime. Predict their views on the other issues in sociology, power & politics and health.</p>	<p>Conduct an interview with three people on their view of gender equality. Think of questions across a broad spectrum of topics. Research the gender pay gap in 2020. Make notes of significant disparities and also equality. What are the reasons and the consequences on individuals, families and society of this gap?</p>	<p>Watch a variety of available TED talks on gender division in society. Read the work of Dale Spender on 'Invisible women'. Consider your views on the progress made – is there a march of progress towards equality or is the gap between men and women still significant? Imagine society in 100 years' time, do you think men and women will be equal in all areas – yes or no? Why?</p>