

Sociology transition work, Summer 2023

The social sciences (Criminology, Sociology, Psychology, Law, Economics) share a common approach to study. You are required to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the topics, to apply what you have learned to novel situations and to analyse, evaluate and justify.

KS5 courses are a step up from the way you have worked at GCSE. These tasks are designed to help you prepare you for this way of working.

Task

There's a competition to develop a brand new education system, with the winner receiving £10 million and a job for life as Education Minister. Write a brief following those 8 points:

1. What are the objectives of your system? What do you want it to produce? What sort of society should your education system produce?
2. How will you know if your system is successful?
3. Who will receive education in your system? (age, groups, compulsory or not)
4. What will those being educated learn about- the curriculum? What skills do you want them to develop?
5. What structure does your system propose? Currently, we have primary, secondary and tertiary education. We currently have a parallel private school system – decide what needs to be done about that.
6. There are various stakeholders who you may wish to include in your planning: the government; employers; parents; local communities; children/students; teachers; admin staff; etc. Which of these are most important in your new system?
7. How will the system be funded? Currently: mostly the tax-payer + private companies investing in educational provision; Private schools pay school fees (subsidised by the tax-payer in the form of tax relief) ; Higher Education students pay for their tuition. How will you pay for the system that you've designed?
8. What safeguards are you building into your scheme in case things don't work effectively?

Present your project in September!

Explore...

Your first topic will be Education. Cambridge is famous for its University and renowned for its Education. Figures for Oxford and Cambridge show that more southerners apply and a higher proportion get places. About class, Pierre Bourdieu argued that the children of middle-class or wealthier parents are likely to have knowledge, behaviour, attitudes and cultural experiences that ensures that they succeed in education. So the question is: what makes it difficult for some to apply to a place like Cambridge University?

Go around Cambridge and its colleges. Why would someone refrain from apply here? What could make someone feel "I wouldn't fit in"? In what way are middle class parents able to give their children a head start? What hidden costs would there be to study here?

You could choose to take your learning further....

Make a map of all schools and universities in Cambridge, including entrance fees (if applicable).

Challenge...

You could choose to take your learning further....

You could watch some of the videos on the website Tutor2U, such as this one on Cultural Capital: <https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/reference/education-and-cultural-capital>.



Read 1 (book), watch 1 (film/ documentary) and listen to 1 (podcast) from the link below. Make notes.

<https://view.genial.ly/631e3b9117ea0700188a720a/interactive-content-socio-wider-work-books-films-tv-etc>

