

A Level Sociology Bridging Tasks

Families and households task (Miss Cantwell)

One of the units you will study in Y12 is families and households. This unit involves looking at lots of different aspects of family life including family diversity, trends in marriage and divorce, childhood and gender roles. As an introduction to this unit we would like you to complete the tasks below. You can complete them on lined paper or on a computer and this work should be brought with you to your Sociology lessons in September.

Task one: Family diversity

There are lots of different family types that now exist in society. These include:

You should conduct research to complete a table similar to the one below which includes a description of each different family type, a drawing of what this family type might look like and whether you think this type of family has increased or decreased in popularity (and any reasons why).

Family type	Description (what is this family type?)	Drawing/picture of this family type	Has it increased or decreased and why.
Nuclear family			
Extended family			
Reconstituted families			
Same sex families			
Lone-parent families			
Symmetrical/ neo-conventional families			
Patriarchal families			
Matriarchal families			
Cohabiting couples			

You might find the following websites helpful to complete this information:

- ❖ <https://quizlet.com/131202597/as-sociology-family-types-of-families-aqa-flash-cards/>
- ❖ <https://goffssociology.wordpress.com/family-types/>

Task two: Trends in divorce

Divorce is the legal termination of a marriage. Sociologists are interested in trends in divorce over time and what this suggests about families.

Read this recent article by the **Guardian** to help you to answer the following questions

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2019/nov/29/divorce-rate-falls-for-heterosexual-couples-in-england-and-wales>

- 1) What was the divorce rate in 2019?
- 2) What has happened to the divorce rate in general since the 1970s (is it higher or lower?)
- 3) Why do think this has happened? Try and think of three reasons.
- 4) What has happened to the divorce rate over the past 10 years?
- 5) Why do you think this has happened? Try and think of two reasons.
- 6) What impact would divorce have on family types? Which family types might be more or less common due to divorce?

Task three: Demography and the family

Demography refers to the study of the population and Sociologists are interested in how this influences family life. This includes looking at:

- * Birth rates
- * Fertility rates
- * Death rates
- * Life expectancy
- * Migration

You could use the following website to help you with this task:

<https://revisionworld.com/a2-level-level-revision/sociology-level-revision/family/demography-and-family>

Using this website, you should attempt to complete a table similar to the one below which details what has happened to each of these rates, the reasons why and any possible effects/consequences.

Rate/trend	What has happened (e.g. increased or decreased, include statistics)	Reasons why this has changed	Possible effects on society/families
Birth rates			
Fertility rates			
Death rates			
Life expectancy			
Migration			

Stretch task: If you finish this, research what is meant by an ‘ageing population’. You could note down the reasons why this has happened and the positive and negative effects this might have on society.