

Sociology Step up Task

September 2025 will be the start of your Sociology A level course- so let's get you researching a social issue to kick start your studies.

The Task: Researching a social issue and writing up your findings/views.

Pick one or something else you are interested in:

1. Climate Change
2. Rise of food banks/rise of poverty
3. Racism in sport
4. Abortion Laws
5. Knife crime
6. Violence against women
7. Institutional Racism e.g. police brutality

What to include in your write up: 1 or 2 sides of A4, typed or hand-written to be given to your teacher in the 1st week of college.

- Why is this an issue in the world/UK?
- Facts/stats related to the issue
- What consequences/impact has it had on people? Who has been affected and why?
- How does it affect other aspects of society or people's lives?
- Have there been any law changes/policy change because of the issue?
- Any other things you find of interest related to the issue
- **INCLUDE REFERENCES FOR YOUR SOURCES OF INFORMATION.**

Resources to get you started

On the following slides there is some basic information about each social issue and links to some resources to get you going on your task.

You need to find and use other resources and reference the ones you have used in your write up.

Find the one that relates to the social issue you have chosen– they go in number order from the previous slide.

1. Climate change

- Climate change could be irreversible by 2030
- Greenhouse gas levels are at an all-time high
- More than 1 million species face extinction
- Climate change is creating a refugee crisis
- Our oceans are dying
- We use more of the earth's resources than it can renew.

<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-climate-change>

<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/climate-change/what-is-climate-change>



2. Rise of food banks / rise of poverty



- The rising cost of living is increasing the need for food banks
- Food banks are struggling with a surge in demand and a drop in donations
- More people are turning to food banks for the first time

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/food-bank-demand-and-the-rising-cost-of-living/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/feb/19/record-number-of-uk-households-depending-on-food-banks>

3. Racism in Sport



- 49% of cricket fans say there is a problem with racism in cricket while just 31% of rugby union fans say there is a problem with racism in rugby union.
- two-thirds of the general public (64%) consider racism to be a problem in professional football.
- Only a quarter of Britons (24%) believe the right amount is being done to tackle racism in professional football

<https://theconversation.com/racism-in-sport-why-it-comes-to-the-surface-when-teams-lose-164413>

<https://www.skysports.com/cricket/news/12123/12658802/scottish-cricket-found-to-be-institutionally-racist-by-independent-review>

<https://news.sky.com/story/racial-abuse-azeem-rafiq-experienced-is-poisonous-for-game-cricket-boss-says-12850939>

4. Abortion Laws



- **1 IN 4** pregnancies end in abortion every year.
- **25 MILLION** unsafe abortions take place each year.
- Abortion is lawful in England, Scotland, and Wales provided the criteria in the Abortion Act 1967 are met.
- After the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade on June 24, 2022, a 2021 trigger law took effect in Arkansas that banned abortions.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/sexual-and-reproductive-rights/abortion-facts/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/may/24/i-will-do-the-same-again-activists-continue-fight-against-poland-strict-abortion-laws>

<https://www.ft.com/content/54883308-9e0f-4006-be00-6c335d3cf4cb>

5. Knife Crime

Police have the power to stop and search any person if they have 'reasonable grounds' to suspect that person may be carrying something that is against the law or could cause harm to others.

The Office for National Statistics show 282 homicides were committed using a knife or sharp instrument in the year to March 2022. This is a 19% rise compared with the previous year - and the highest annual total since records began in 1946

In 2021 London also recorded the highest number of teenage deaths attributed to knife or gun crime. The capital saw 30 male teenagers aged between 14- 19 years old die on our streets.

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless/more-info/crime-types-explained/knife-crime>

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn04304/>

<https://www.wirral safeguarding.co.uk/knife-crime/>

<https://www.shieldsgazette.com/news/crime/211-arrested-in-major-north-east-gang-crackdown-to-tackle-knife-crime-and-serious-violence-4170603>



6. Violence against women



- Worldwide, 1 in 3 women have experienced physical or sexual violence.
- Most violence against women is perpetrated by current or former husbands or intimate partners.
- Globally 81,000 women and girls were killed in 2020, around 47,000 of them (58 per cent) died at the hands of an intimate partner or a family member.
- Globally, violence against women disproportionately affects low- and lower-middle-income countries and regions.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures>

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/mar/03/sarah-everard-sparked-uk-reckoning-with-male-violence-say-charities>

<https://www.holyrood.com/inside-politics/view,she-was-just-walking-home>

7. Institutional Racism

Institutional racism, also known as systemic racism, is defined as policies and practices that exist throughout a whole society or organization and that result in and support a continued unfair advantage to some people and unfair or harmful treatment of others based on race.

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk/1999/feb/24/lawrence.ukcrime7>

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/blogs/institutional-racism-still-remains-challenge-work-and-wider-society>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/racism-uk-united-nations-africa-b2270640.html>



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