



Notre Dame

CATHOLIC SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

1. A summer learning activity/task – Sociology A Level

Introduction to Sociology

Sociology is the study of society and of people and their behaviour. Sociology contains some key terms and theories that help us to explain human behaviour. As an introduction we will look at some key terms in sociology: nature, nurture, culture, norms and values.

Part 1 – Key terms

1. Search the internet to find a definition of each of these key terms:
 - a. Nature
 - b. Nurture
 - c. Culture
 - d. Norms
 - e. Values
2. Suggest one aspect of behaviour that is determined by:
 - a. Nature
 - b. Nurture
3. Give an example of part of your life that is affected by your culture.
4. Why do you think it is important to have norms and values in society?

Part 2 – Activity – What counts as food

1. Would you find it acceptable to eat the following: cats, dogs, rabbits, guinea pigs, horses, lambs, calves, swans, burgers.
2. In which cultures is it forbidden to eat:
 - a. Beef
 - b. Pork
 - c. shellfish
3. Find an example of a rule from a particular culture that governs how animals must be slaughtered.
4. What does this activity tell us about what counts as food?

Part 3 – Research – Cannibalism as a norm

In some cultures, and in some circumstances, cannibalism is a cultural norm.

A. Using the web links below (or others), find definitions for the following types of cannibalism:

1. exocannibalism
2. endocannibalism
3. necro-cannibalism



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<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cannibalism>

<http://www.deathreference.com/BI-Ce/Cannibalism.html>

B. The Korowai people of Papua New Guinea practise endocannibalism. Use the web links to research the reasons why these people eat human flesh.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korowai_people

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

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/sleeping-with-cannibals-128958913/>

D. Write a summary of how the meaning of cannibalism varies between cultures. (You may like to consider how it reflects differences in attitudes towards death and bereavement in different cultures.)

Part 4 – Application – revisit the key terms

From what you have learned in the activities, can you now add anything to your definitions and examples of key terms.