A level Sociology Taster Work 2020

This pack concentrates on Paper 3 at A level. The work you do in response to the activities I set here, will be directly useful to you for your A level examination, so keep it safe!

Title of Tasks	Purpose of Task:	Time to be taken	Outcome Expected
Task 1: Evaluating the digital world	Applying examples.	2 hours	Table filled in with 10 examples of about 50 words of comment for each example.
Task 2: Wider research on relationships and identity in The Digital World	Exploration of the views of others on the effect of the digital world. Podcast and Ted Talk.	2 hours	300 words of notes minimum for each.
Task 3: Gender online- have women been benefitted or disadvantaged by the digital world?	To provide evidence to both agree and disagree with this statement. (podcasts and wider reading)	10 hours	To produce a positive and negative table on the evidence collected. Option to produce a longer essay (1500 words min) that presents the evidence and comes to a conclusion.

Task 1:

 Is the digital world a positive or negative force for society?

Essentially, what is the effect of global social media on relationships between people, loneliness, identity, subcultures, democracy, rights of minority groups and political conflict?

Finding Evidence

 Find examples of posts, videos, groups, statistics, news reports, petitions etc. on social media platforms and What's App that deal with relationships between people, loneliness, identity, subcultures, democracy, rights of minority groups and political conflict. The Covid-19 situation will bring a whole new aspect to the unit. New sociological times!

Twitter is a useful source as you get politics, culture, art etc and there are often links to articles. Newish platforms like TikTok would also be good (bear in mind who it is owned by, of course).

I do not want you to put yourself at risk by finding actual examples of posts that may be hateful or pornographic. We all know they are out there. Therefore you can just refer to those type of things in your own words, as I have below.

Recording Evidence:

Your job is to decide whether the pieces of evidence you collect from social media show a positive or negative effect for society. Here are some examples:

Positive (an example and 50 words of explanation)	Negative (an example and 50 words of explanation)
Domestic Violence UK @dviol... · 1d UPDATE: We have set up a Text Directory Service on our web platform This service will signpost individuals to the National Domestic Violence Helpline, The Men's Advice Line, Galop... This post on Twitter offers help to people isolated and in fear due to domestic violence. It offers information and help to people who may be deliberately isolated from speaking to others.	Collective Shout @CollectiveShout It's impossible to challenge or address men's violence against women while simultaneously justifying, trivialising or glorifying it. Read more>> collectiveshout.org/billy_joe_saun... #VAW #violenceagainstwomen #billyjoesaunders Because comments can be posted without a censor, posts like that from Billy Joe Saunders can gain popularity and encourage violence against women.
Change.org UK @UKChange · 1d Some NHS workers are using bin bags for protection against #coronavirus. bbc.co.uk/news/health-52... Over 418,000 people are calling the Government to get them proper PPE now. Will you help add pressure by signing? Change.org/PPEnow #PPENow Why some NHS workers are wearing bin bags as protection bbc.co.uk 3 23 17 The digital world can lead to action to force change that benefits groups. It is more	SEND IN PHOTOS/VIDEOS TO THIS PAGE OF 5G CELL TOWERS BURNT DOWN TO THE GROUND, WE WILL HAVE A COMPETITION AND CREDIT THE WINNER, THEY WILL ONLY COUNT IF THEY COME WITH A PHOTO/VIDEO AND LOCATION GOOD LUCK THE WINNERS ARE THE TEAM WITH THE MOST POINTS 7 10 comments 17 shares Here we see fake news about the connection between CV-19 and 5G being spread and leading to violent actions. The cookies on social media lead to the filter bubble which means that people liking the post will then receive more fake news posts.

responsive to immediate events than political parties are.	
Digital Media offers a virtual community for those who are unable to find acceptance from those around them, for example #LGBTisolation	However, digital media is also used to create groups and spread opinions that are homophobic. Unlike in the real world, the virtual world is not 'policed' by the state. Hate laws are difficult to apply as the dark web is not easily restricted.

Where would you put these examples?

Please find at least 5 of your own examples or points for either side (10 in all). They do not all have to have a counter point in the opposite box. Add them to the table. Explain why you think they should be in that category.

Task 2: Wider Research on Identity and Relationships in the Digital World

Amber Case is one of our key sociologists in this area. Watch her Ted Talk and make notes again in your positive and negative sections. Quote her directly.

https://www.ted.com/talks/amber_case_we_are_all_cyborgs_now

Listen to this podcast from the BBC on loneliness. You do not have to make direct quotations, but you should be able to record the ideas or evidence.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0000nnv

Task 3: Have women benefitted or been disadvantaged by the Digital World?

In order to complete the work on this task, you will need to listen to the podcasts and read the articles below. Record the evidence in a 'Benefitted' and 'Disadvantaged' table.

The digital world has benefitted women	The digital world has disadvantaged women

If you wish, you can do an essay when you have finished your table. If you choose the essay option, follow this structure:

Introduction: Give your view on the title. (Do NOT leave this until the conclusion.)

Section 1:

'It **could** be argued that………' and lay out the points **against** your view. Explaining why this evidence COULD BE used to argue this view.

Section 2:

'However, the **stronger** argument is ….' Then give **your** view using the points **in favour** of your view.

Conclusion:

Summarise your view. Maybe you could end with a killer fact?

Here are the sources I have found. You may also want to find your own evidence:

http://uk.businessinsider.com/john-greathouse-rincon-venture-partners-vc-op-ed-2016-9?r=US&IR=T

https://www.indy100.com/article/woman-conducts-experiment-to-show-just-how-awful-sexual-harassment-is-online-internet-husband-chat-7916391?amp

https://inews.co.uk/essentials/news/diane-abbotts-past-present-staff-members-share-racism-see-daily-basis/amp/

https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/aug/07/silicon-valley-weapon-choice-women-google-manifesto-gender-difference-eugenics?CMP=share_btn_tw

https://twitter.com/EA/status/911337494070693888/photo/1

https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/jan/04/depression-in-girls-linked-to-higher-use-of-social-media?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b064zqyw

Good bye:

Bring the work you have done to the first sociology lesson taught by Ms Hern (AHN).

Don't forget to visit OPGSPolSoc on Twitter for sociology tweets.

I hope you have enjoyed these activities. If you want to continue with listening to sociology then try out this programme: https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qy05/episodes/guide