![AHEEngCol[1]]()

**ASC Assignment Brief and feedback form2015-16**

**A. Assignment Details**

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| **Subject** | Sociology |
| **Unit Title** | Key Perspectives in Sociology |
| **Unit Level** | 3 |
| **Assignment Title**  | Compare and contrast essay |
| **Date issued** |  |
| **Assignments for this Unit** | Assignment No. | 2 | of | 2 |
| **Deadline for Submission** |  |
| **Actual Submission Date** |  |
| **Resubmission Date**  | (If applicable) |
| **Tutor Name** |  |
| **Student Name (print)** |  |

**B. Task Details**

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| The overall assessment for this unit consists of two parts. Both elements must be submitted and all assessment criteria met in order to pass this unit and a final overall grade awarded.Essay question***:*** *“Compare and contrast two perspectives of the way society is organised”.*Guidance: This element requires you to identify research studies which aim to explain the way society is organised, and apply theoretical perspectives in order to evaluate the research. You may use studies from any of the theoretical perspectives studied in the unit.**The word count requirement is 1,500 words (+/- 10 %).**It is suggested that you structure your essay as follows:* Introduction – Introduce the topic and outline what the essay will be exploring (50-100 words).
* Part 1 – Outline perspective one, briefly explaining the perspective and how it accounts for the way society is organised, incorporating real life examples and sociological studies to support the perspective (approx. 400 words)**(UAC 1.1).**
* Part 2 –Outline the second perspective exploring as an alternative explanation for the way society is organised, incorporating real life example and sociological studies to support the perspective (approx. 400 words) **(UAC 1.1).**
* Part 3–Compare and contrast the two perspectives, illustrating its similarities and differences, strengths and limitations in order to critically discuss the application of the theories. When critiquing the research studies, you are not required to provide every detail of the research study, just the main findings and how they support the argument you are presenting (approx. 500 words)**(UAC 1.2&2.1).**
* Conclusion – Summarise what you have written in the main body of the essay and make a judgement as to which perspective provide a more comprehensive explanation of the way society is organised (approx. 100 words).

Both elements must be word processed.Please state the word count at the end of the essay. The reference list should not be included in the word count.Write your essay based on an audience who are intelligent, but have little knowledge of sociology. Explain concepts clearly and use examples to illustrate key points.Referencing – You must cite any sources used to write your essay and complete a reference list which using the Harvard reference style. Please start the reference list on a new page at the end of your essay **(UAC 4.1).**It is highly recommended that you use a range of sources of information in order to inform your understanding of sociology. Students who gain a distinction will read text books, journals, quality newspapers and reports. Be careful when using websites to ensure that the information is reliable. Wikipedia, for example, provides general information however anyone can make amendments and so the information has not been verified.Your essay must be written using a good academic style. This means writing in the third person narrative and structuring your essay in coherent sentences and paragraphs. Use complex sentences; including connectives will help to improve the fluency of your writing. It is important that you include key terminology throughout your essay in order to demonstrate your understanding and ability to apply your knowledge**(UAC 3.1).**This essay has a word count restriction; please write your word count at the end of the essay.The work submitted must be your own work. Please see the course handbook for the rules regarding plagiarism and cheating. |

**C. Unit Details**

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| **Unit Learning Outcomes** | **Unit Assessment Criteria** |
| 1. **Understand the major perspectives in sociology.**
2. **Understand the relationship between theory and research.**
3. **Understand relevant sociological terminology and concepts.**
4. **Record sources of information.**
 | * 1. Outline and evaluate theoretical perspectives in sociology (for example Marxism, Feminism, Functionalism and Symbolic Interactionism).
	2. Critically discuss application of theoretical perspectives in sociology.

2.1Outline and evaluate key sociological studies identifying and discussing associated theoretical approaches/ perspectives.3.1Apply a range of sociological terminology accurately and appropriately.4.1Accurately use a standard form of referencing. |

**D. Activity Design and Verification**

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| **Assignment Activity Designed By:** | **Internally Verified By:** |
| **Name:****Date:** | **Name:****Date:** |

**E. Grading Information**

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| **Grade Descriptor** |  | **Tick As Applicable** |
| **1** | **Understanding of the subject**  |  |
| **2** | **Application of knowledge** |  |
| **4** | **Use of information** |  |
| **5** | **Communication and Presentation** |  |
| **7** | **Quality** |  |

**1. Understanding of the subject**

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| --- | --- |
| **Indicative content for Merit** | **Indicative content for Distinction** |
| The student’s work submitted demonstrates **very good** understanding of the different perspectives associated with the area of study. | The student’s work demonstrates **excellent**understanding of the different perspectives associated with the area of study. |
| **What this means for the assignment:***The essay demonstrates a very goodunderstanding of two perspectives however explanations may be limited or ambiguous.* | **What this means for the assignment:***The essay demonstrates an excellent understanding of two perspectives with succinct explanations.* |

1. **Application of knowledge**

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| **Indicative content for Merit** | **Indicative content for Distinction** |
| The student’s work makes use of relevant perspectives and theories with very good levels of accuracy. | The student’s work makes use of relevant perspectives and theories with excellent levels of accuracy. |
| **What this means for the assignment:***Key perspectives and theories are identified and explained, and applied to the explanation of how society is organised, to a very good standard. Explanations may be ambiguous or limited.Some key terms have been applied.* | **What this means for the assignment:***Key perspectives and theories are identified and explained and applied to the explanation of how society is organised, to an excellent standard. Explanations are unambiguous and key terms have been accurately and consistently applied.* |

1. **Use of information**

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| **Indicative content for Merit** | **Indicative content for Distinction** |
| The student’s work makes some use of new information. | The student’s work makes extensive use of new information. |
| **What this means for the assignment:***There is some evidence of wider reading in addition to material provided in class. Sources are varied and from mostly reliable sources. Some research studies have been included in order to support or refute the theories discussed.* | **What this means for the assignment:***There is clear evidence of wider reading in addition to material provided in class. Sources are varied and are extracted from reliable sources such as journals, text books, quality newspapers and reputable internet sources. Relevant research studies have been included to support and refute the theories discussed. Research has been critiqued in order to consider its reliability and relevance.* |

1. **Communication and presentation**

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| **Indicative content for Merit** | **Indicative content for Distinction** |
| The student’s workshows **very good** command of structure and language. | The student’s work shows **excellent** command of structure and language. |
| **What this means for the assignment:***The essay is presented in a generally logical and structured way, using an academic writing style. Improvements may be required to the structure of the essay.Very good command of spelling and grammar will be demonstrated and a conclusion will be provided.* | **What this means for the assignment:**The essay is presented in a logical and structured way, using a fluent academic writing style. Excellent command of spelling and grammar will be demonstrated aclear conclusion drawn.  |

1. **Quality**

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| **Indicative content for Merit** | **Indicative content for Distinction** |
| The student’s work, taken as a whole, demonstrates a **very good** response to the demands of the assignment. | The student’s work, taken as a whole, demonstrates an**excellent** response to the demands of the assignment. |
| **What this means for the assignment:***Taken as a whole the essay presents a very good response to the assignment brief, with some areas for improvement identified.* | **What this means for the assignment:***Taken as a whole the essay presents an excellent response to the assignment brief.* |

**F. Assignment B Feedback for element B.**

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| **Tutor Comments** | **Achieved Y/N** |
| **Descriptor** | **Grading Comments**  | **Grade P/M/D** |
| **1.Understanding of the subject** |  |  |
| **2. Application of knowledge** |  |  |
| **4. Use of information** |  |  |
| **5. Communication and Presentation** |  |  |
| **7. Quality** |  |  |

**G. Overall unit grade for elements A and B combined.**

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| **Unit Grade**  |  |  |
| **Student Response.** I confirm that I have received and understood this feedback | **Student Signature** |