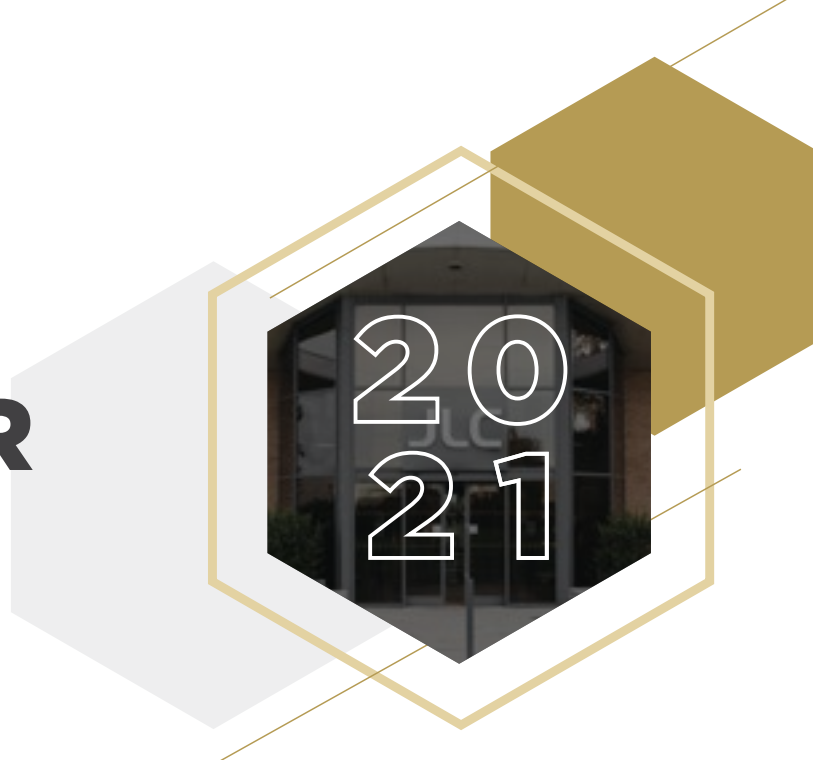


SUMMER TASK

SOCIOLOGY



In preparation for year one, you have some work to do over the summer.

TASK 1: A DEEP DIVE INTO ERVING GOFFMAN

Erving Goffman is an interactionist. Interactionism is a theory we are interested in at the A Level.

This task is designed to help develop your independent research skills, and will help you get to grips with how identity is formed and maintained, as well as some of the language we use and discuss.

Goffman came up with a theory known as 'Dramaturgy'. Goffman believes that social behaviour is a kind of performance, and so he uses the metaphor of theatre to help explain this.

The book which Goffman describes this theory is included as a PDF. I encourage you to read it, but it is not required reading.

Do some research into Dramaturgy, and answer the following questions.

1. What is the 'mask'?
2. Give an example of two different masks that you put on every day.
3. What is the 'front stage'?
4. Give an example of a front stage in your life.
5. What is 'impression management'?
6. What are 'props'?
7. Give some examples of props that we use to represent our gender.
8. Erving Goffman and Judith Butler write that gender is 'performative'. What does this mean?