

Sociology A Level



Exam Board: AQA

Entry requirements: Grade 5 in GCSE English Language/Literature

Intent

Structure

Studying sociology offers insights into social and cultural issues. It helps you develop a multi-perspective and critical approach to understanding issues around culture, identity, religion, crime, families and social power. More than once during the course you're bound to ask yourself the question, "why has society developed like this? With poverty, ignorance, crime and injustice."

Sociology will help you develop a range of skills that will benefit you, whether you decide to go on to further study or the working world, including:

- the use of evidence to support your arguments
- how to investigate facts and use deduction
- critical thinking
- making reasoned arguments
- developing opinions and new ideas on societal issues
- the ability to analyse and better understand societal issues

Sociology is an independent reading and essay based subject. Students will take active part in discussing ideas with their peers and as a whole class on a regular basis. We do flipped learning so students prepare for lessons at home and we establish what students know, then analyse and evaluate ideas. Complementary subjects are Psychology, Health and Social Care, History, English and Geography. Students take 3 exams at the end of the second year, there is no coursework.

Implementation

Content & Sequencing

In the first year you'll study:

- Education and methods in context: You'll consider the role of education in society. For example as part of your studies you'll look into gender and ethnicity differences in school achievement. You'll also learn how to apply your own sociology research methods to the study of education.
- Research methods: You'll learn how to conduct your own sociological research, from interviews to reviewing documents and official statistics.

In the second year of the A-level you'll broaden your understanding of society. You'll study:

- Crime and deviance with theory and methods: You'll learn about criminal and deviant behaviour, including factors that might lead a person to follow this path in life and how the media portrays them
- Theory and methods: you'll expand on your knowledge of research methods and study theory and methods.

You'll also study the following topics:

- beliefs in society
- families and households

Assessment Methods

At A-level there are three exams, each account for one third of your A-level grade. The three exams last 2 hours and are worth 80 marks each. The exams consist of a mixture of short answer and extended writing questions.

Impact

Onward Progression

Sociology is a great choice of subject for people who want a career in social work, nursing or medicine. But the subject is also useful in a number of other careers, like marketing, advertising, PR, journalism, law or teaching.

According to bestcourse4me.com, the top six degree courses taken by students who have an A-level in sociology are:

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|-------------------|--------------------|
| • Sociology | • Business studies |
| • Psychology | • Law |
| • English studies | • Teaching |

Further information contact

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