

A Level Sociology



Why this subject?

Sociology is the systematic study of society. It is about all types of social relationships people share with each other; in families, communities, school and work. Sociology is a respected discipline with a long academic tradition stretching back to at least the eighteenth century. Although Sociology is enjoyable to study it also has the potential to challenge your whole view of the social world. Sociology will support your study of other like minded subjects such as Psychology, Philosophy and Ethics, History, Law and English.

Course Outline

Year 12:

Education with methods in context – *This topic will develop your knowledge of the role/function of education and how it links to the economy and class structure.*

Research methods – *Student's will learn about the ways in which research is conducted, whilst considering the ethical implications of controversial research.*

Families and households – *This topic will allow you to analyse the relationship of family to the social structure and social change along with gender roles within the household.*

Year 13

Education with theory and methods – *Students will develop their knowledge of education by expanding to other related topic to include the hidden curriculum and the policies to achieve greater equality of opportunity.*

Families and households - *Students will develop their knowledge of Families and households in year 13.*

Beliefs in Society – *This topic will analyse ideology, science and religion with focus on cults and spiritual organisations.*

Crime and Deviance with theory and methods – *This unit will allow students to develop an understanding of patterns of crime, the media's portrayal of crime, gender differences in crime along with the role of the criminal justice system.*



Key Information

Exam Board	AQA
Qualification Type	A Level
Entry Requirements	Applied A Level Pathway. Level 5 in English.
Head of Department	Mrs Hillier

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Assessment Outline

In year 13, you will sit three external exams prepared by AQA. They will consist of Paper 1, 2 & 3.

Paper 1:

Education with theory and methods

Paper 2:

Topics in Sociology (Families and households and Beliefs in Society)

Paper 3:

Crime and deviance with theory and methods

Each paper consists of a 2-hour written exam that consists of a total of 80 marks. Each paper will be worth 33.3% of the A-level.



What do our students say?

"Not only does Sociology teach you essential academic skills but it also enables you to see the world from different perspectives." - Maya, Year 13 Student

"Sociology has made me see things that I thought I knew in a new way- it's made me re-evaluate my society and my position in it" – Chloe, Year 12 student

Careers and next steps

As with the other Social Sciences, Sociology helps you to build up research, problem solving, organisation and analytical skills. You will also develop the ability to write evaluative essays using a range of theories and concepts to develop a logical argument. If you study Sociology you will likely find yourself working on research projects, which will help you build your teamwork and communication skills too. You will learn how to work independently and how to find information, extract what is important from it and turn it into an argument.

One of the best things about Sociology is that it's a subject that is very versatile. It has transferable skills which will help in any sector which involves working with people in society. Therefore, those who study Sociology go into a wide variety of jobs with the more popular within healthcare, education, research, media, the criminal justice system and other public service related occupations.