



A Level Sociology

Why study Sociology?

Do you often find yourself asking – but why? A Level Sociology is the study of society. Sociology is an exciting, radical, and critical subject. It's about digging below the surface, to find out what is really going on. Sociology is a challenging subject, where you will have the opportunity to develop your thinking skills. During the course we will use the sociological tools of theory, research, and concepts to help you evaluate the world around you. It's the best subject!

What is the course structure?

We will be following the AQA Sociology syllabus (7192), over a two-year period.

Modules:

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods:

For this paper, we get to explore the Education system. We examine what role the education system plays in our ever-changing society. We look at how Education has changed over time as well as delving into why some social groups achieve in education and others not. We will also look at the impact the government has made to our education system.

In addition to we also look at theory and methods. This involves studying key theories in Sociology and understanding how they see society, whilst also studying a range of exciting research methods.

Paper 2: Topics in Sociology:

For this paper, we still study two topics: Families & Households as well as Beliefs in Society.

Within Families & Households, we look at the most common family type in the UK, reasons for the changes in the patterns of marriage and divorce. We also examine childhood and discuss how it has changed from historical view, how childhood is seen from a cultural viewpoint as well as the idea that we have become more child centred society.

In Beliefs in society, we look at which social groups are more likely to hold religious beliefs in an ever-increasing secular society, as well as look at alternative beliefs such as cults and sects.

Paper 3 Crime & Deviance with Theory & Methods:

For this paper, we will explore why and indeed if some social groups commit more crime than others, we will examine if statistics on crime tell us a true picture.

Within this paper we will look at Theory and Methods and analyse which research method is favoured by particular theorists and consider why.

Examinations take place at the end of Year 13 and will comprise of three papers. Each exam paper will be two hours long and is worth a third of the final grade. Paper 1 and Paper 3 will contain a mixture of short and long answer questions, while Paper 2 will contain extended writing tasks. The questions will require students to outline, analyse and evaluate information.

Which activities will I be engaged in during the course?

- Debate and discussion
- Research
- Analysing and evaluating theories and research studies
- Interviewing
- Visits/conferences

The aims of the course are to encourage you to develop a broad knowledge and a critical understanding of contemporary and changing world that surrounds you. A Level Sociology will nurture your inquiring mind and give you the opportunity to debate with like-minded people about the issues that impact our daily lives. You will have the opportunity to understand and evaluate sociological methodology through having an active involvement in the sociological research process. These skills are imperative as you progress onto university. Student will be able to take part in conferences and enjoy guest speakers sharing their research in the sociological field.

What can I do with A Level Sociology?

A Level Sociology will complement other A Level Courses, such as the sciences and humanities subjects. Student will be able to progress onto several university courses and career opportunities including law, social work, teaching and research, the Police Force, Health & Social care, Criminology, HR Officer, Life Coach, Probation worker, PR Officer, Marketing Executive and SENCO.

How can I prepare for the course?

You will be expected to research widely and independently, analyse sociological arguments and hypotheses, evaluate evidence and question and think critically about every aspect you study.

British Sociological Association: www.britsoc.co.uk

Revision World: <https://revisionworld.com/a2-level-level-revision/sociology-level-revision/sociology-level-past-papers/aqa-level-sociology-past-papers>

AQA website: www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology

<https://www.collins.co.uk/product/9780007597475/AQA+A+Level+Sociology+-+AQA+A+Level+Sociology+Student+Book+1+%5bFourth+edition%5d>

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"Sociology is the study of the way in which human beings are shaped by things they don't see."