

Sociology A Level

Who is the course for?

Sociology is one of the most popular subjects studied at A level and degree level. You do not have to have taken this course at GCSE. Sociology is the study of how society is organised and how we experience life; it will help you understand and evaluate the world that we live in. It asks the “big questions” about society and looks beneath the surface of taken-for-granted assumptions.

Additionally you will explore issues such as the influence of the media in our lives, the impact that beliefs and religion has on different countries, and the extent to which people are controlled by society. You will learn about some of the fascinating research that has been carried out. This course is for you if you are; interested in current affairs and does not take things at face value, prepared to be open minded but also question others opinions, sociological theories and willing to justify their own conclusions

What does the course involve?

A vast range of learning and teaching methods will be used during your sociology lessons. These methods will include group work, independent learning, creative learning tasks, personal research, teacher- led activities and lots of debate!

As well as learning in the classroom, you will be encouraged to do lots of learning outside of the classroom, including the use of the media such as TV, film and the Internet. You are expected to read widely around the subject as relevant sociological content can be found everywhere. You will also be expected to regularly practise your writing technique as the course is 100% examined.

Modules include:

Education – Is the education system fair? How has it changed over time?

Theory and methods – How sociologists study people: different research techniques and the different philosophies that underpin them.

Family and Households - Exploring the diversity in modern family life, power in relationships and changes in the position of women and children in the family.

Beliefs in Society – The role of religion in society. Is faith disappearing? Reasons for people joining sects and cults. Does religion play a role in conflict?

Crime and Deviance – Why does crime happen, and how can it be reduced? Does crime ever help society? Different types of crime such as organised crime and crimes committed by governments.

Assessment Methods

A level Sociology is assessed by three exams at the end of Year 13, which make up 100% of the qualification.

In classwork and extended learning your progress will be assessed through written answers as well as write-ups of practical investigations.

Progression Options

Given that sociology is such a broad subject and covers topics very relevant to the world that we live in; a qualification in sociology can be used in a variety of ways. Universities recognise and welcome sociology and it complements other social sciences or arts subjects well. Sociology qualifications can lead to varied careers such as teaching, journalism, healthcare, law, marketing, politics, advertising, social research, the civil service, the police force, human resources and many more.

Awarding Body

AQA