

Sociology

A Level

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Exam Board: AQA



What is this subject about?

Sociology is sometimes called the “Science of Society.” It is a systematic and rigorous study of the society in which we all live and how it has developed. Just as a historian will ask questions about a society in the past, a sociologist will focus upon how the different groups and institutions in our society work together and how they have changed and developed over recent years. You will acquire the essential knowledge and understanding of the central aspects of sociological thought and research methods together with the application of a range of skills. Over the two year course you will look at such topics as education, the family, social inequalities (such as social class, race and gender) religion and politics. You will also study those techniques that sociologists use in order to conduct their research, and sociological theories that seek to explain and understand the nature and development of contemporary Britain.

For the AS level you will study:

Two units are studied in Year 1: Unit 1 is Families and Households, Unit 2 is the Sociology of Education, which also focuses upon the methods sociologists use to conduct their research.

For the A2 level you will study:

In the second year you will study one topic from Politics or Religion (Unit 3) and also complete the topic of Stratification and Differentiation (Unit 4), which explores the issues relating to inequality in all its forms. Again this unit also has a substantial element within it that explores the ways in which sociologists conduct their research.

How is the course assessed?

Each unit is assessed by a written examination.

What skills will I need and develop in this course?

In order to achieve this understanding of our society to an appropriate level or depth, detail and sophistication you must be able to debate, evaluate, interpret and apply a wide range of sociological knowledge, theories and research evidence about late 20th and early 21st Century Britain and its institutions, issues and problems. Reading, essays and individual study form substantial features of the course.

Subject combination advice:

A subject that helps us understand the world in which we live clearly will combine with a wide range of other academic subjects, particularly those in the humanities area. It is particularly appropriate to those subjects with a similar skills base and related knowledge such as English, Drama, History, Politics, Economics, Geography, Business Studies, Film and Media Studies, Psychology, Health, Social Care and Early Years. Although not directly related to science subjects it can still be an appropriate and useful contrasting subject that would develop communication skills.

What can the course lead to in terms of higher education and future careers?

Sociology is recognised for entry to all universities and by employers for a wide variety of jobs and careers.

What are the formal entry requirements for this course?

Aside from the general entry criteria that the College requires, you will also need to achieve at least a Grade C in GCSE English Language.

What extra support / enrichment activities are on offer?

Each year we offer an on-site, end-of-course exam skills and revision conference conducted by the Principal Examiner in order to provide you with the skills and exam techniques that you will need to perform well in the final examinations. Regular tutorial and individual support to students is readily available throughout the course.

Will it matter if I have not studied Sociology at school?

No, not at all. Sociology is not often taught in schools and we do not assume any previous knowledge.



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