

# Sociology (AQA)

## AT A GLANCE

Sociology is an all-round subject. It has a little bit of everything such as Politics and History. It also helps develop essential skills such as being able to debate and criticise what others readily accept. This subject will challenge your beliefs and help you broaden your knowledge to provide an effective argument.

Students in Sociology will develop the skills of analysis, evaluation and interpretation among others and will become confident in their ability to explain the social world.”

- Have you ever looked at people and wondered why they act in the way they do?
- Have you ever looked at society and wondered why it's like it is?

Sociology is an attempt to answer these questions. In Sociology we try to understand society, whilst recognising that society is always changing. We all belong to a society and are influenced by that society. We are continually coming into contact with people – think about how many people you are in contact with each day. These people influence us and we influence them. Considering we are all individuals, we all live remarkably similar lives:

- We more or less agree about what is right and wrong.
- We all live in some kind of a family unit.
- We have all experienced education in schools.
- We all know how to behave in public.

Sociology attempts to go beyond these everyday observations. It is about applying theories to explain these – and other – patterns. Sociology addresses key questions that affect our everyday life such as why we live in families; why some children fail at school; why people commit crime; and why people vote.

As a subject, Sociology has clear applications for future employment as well as for future study. The demands it makes on the skills of communication and analysis mean that if you achieve a good grade in it, you are obviously an intelligent person with a good understanding of your society and of people in general.

## WHERE CAN A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY TAKE ME?

Sociology gives an excellent academic background to a number of careers. The subject is particularly useful to those who are interested in working with people. The developed understanding of society and skills gained can be particularly useful to careers such as:

- Medicine • Law • Journalism • Teaching • Social Work
- Sociology Degree • Research • Advertising • Human Resources

## Why choose A Level Sociology?

**Are you interested in  
contemporary, modern Britain?**

**Do you want to acquire  
knowledge and a critical  
understanding of the social world  
in which you live?**

**Then choose Sociology -  
learn to develop your skills  
in organising and presenting  
information, ideas, descriptions  
and arguments.**



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## WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Sociology is the study of people in social groups. The course examines trends in society and analytically assesses the influence of society on human beings. The course is academic in nature and looks for answers to important questions in society such as:

- 'Why do girls do better than boys at G.C.S.E?'
- 'What is the role of education?'
- 'Are criminals mad or bad?'
- 'Why do people become criminals or commit suicide?'
- 'Is religion in decline?'
- 'Why are Muslims in Britain more religious?'
- 'Which methods can you use to study society?'

Students will need to consider and evaluate a range of answers to these questions and examine numerous sociological theories. The course is best suited to those who are interested in how society works and are willing to discuss their ideas in class. Students are required to have good English skills in order to present well-reasoned arguments, both verbally and in writing. If you enjoy a challenge and are interested in the world, you will like sociology.

## WHAT COURSE UNITS WILL I STUDY?

### Year 1

- Sociology of Education including Research Methods
- Sociology of the Family

### Year 2

- Theory and Methods with Crime and Deviance
- Sociology of Religion (Beliefs)

At the end of Year 1 there will be TWO papers which will be assessed by examination in the summer term of Year 12.

Paper 1- Education (with methods)  
Paper 2 – Family

At the end of Year 2 there will be THREE papers which will be assessed by examination in the summer term of Year 13

Paper 1 – Education with Theory and Methods  
Paper 2 – Topics in Sociology (Family & Beliefs)  
Paper 3 – Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods