

Course Level

A Level

Awarding Body

AQA

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or English Literature

Assessment

Two year linear A Level

All units assessed through formal written examination.

SOCIOLOGY

Understand society. Question the world. Develop skills for your future.

Why are some people more successful than others? How does education shape our lives? Why do people commit crime? How do social class, gender and ethnicity influence our experiences? And how can we know whether the explanations we are given about society are actually true?

A Level Sociology gives you the opportunity to explore these questions and much more.

This engaging and effective qualification provides an introduction to the fascinating study of society and human behaviour. You will learn the fundamentals of Sociology while developing valuable skills that are highly regarded by **universities and employers**, including **critical analysis, independent thinking, evaluation, communication and research**.

What will you study?

Throughout the course, you will explore a range of sociological theories, perspectives and research methods. You will learn how sociologists investigate society and, importantly, how to evaluate the conclusions they come to.

Your studies will include:

- **Education with Theory and Methods** – explore the role and purpose of education and investigate why educational experiences and outcomes differ between social groups.
- **Topics in Sociology** – examine key areas of social life e.g. families and households through different sociological perspectives, encouraging you to question assumptions and consider competing explanations.
- **Crime and Deviance** – investigate why crime occurs, how society responds to deviance and how factors such as social class, gender and ethnicity can influence patterns of crime and criminalisation.
- **Sociological theories, perspectives and methods** – compare different ways of understanding society and engage in theoretical debate.
- **Research methods** – examine how sociologists design research to obtain data, including the strengths and limitations of different research approaches. You will be encouraged to take an active interest in the research process and to evaluate how reliable and useful sociological evidence really is.

Why choose Sociology?

- **Think critically.** Learn to question information, analyse evidence, challenge assumptions and evaluate different explanations. Develop and justify your own arguments and viewpoints.
- **Understand the world around you.** Sociology helps you make sense of contemporary issues, social change and the experiences of different groups within society.
- **Develop soft skills** such as effective communication, teamwork, problem solving and time management.

Career and Progression Opportunities

The subject is of particular use for those considering careers in the media, education, social work, nursing or research. Students may go on to take a degree in the subject or in a related area such as Social Policy, Criminology or Social Work. Others find it useful in their applications for a range of other subjects including Business, English, Journalism, Nursing, Teacher Training and History.

Link to specification and useful website:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-level/sociology-7191/specification>