

A Level Sociology

What is Sociology?

Sociology is the study of society and of people and their behaviour and in particular is concerned with humans in groups rather than the individual. Over the last couple of centuries sociologists have studied a vast and diverse range of topics including sexuality, popular music, the body, ethnic conflict, poverty, sport, science, health, the law, drug use, war, religion, death, colonialism, housework, mobile phones, youth subcultures, humour and murder.

Why study Sociology?

Sociology is an academic subject which nevertheless equips students with a range of skills beyond those of the core curriculum. In our classes you will learn to think critically, to question common-sense assumptions, to solve problems, to work independently and as part of a group and to write a clearly structured, analytical essay. All of this is excellent preparation for university or for a whole range of careers.

What makes a successful Sociology student?

Someone who has a will to learn, wants to contribute in lessons and is organised. In addition, anyone who has an interest in understanding how the world around them works, and who enjoys critical thinking and exploring ideas from different viewpoints. Sociology is an excellent complement to other subjects on Social Sciences, such as Psychology, Economics, Business and Health and Social Care, but it also provides a good balance for many other subjects.

To study this course, what qualifications will I need and in which subjects?

GCSE Sociology is not a requirement but a good proven academic record is necessary. Because of the amount of written work Grade 4 in English Language is preferable and grade 4 and above in five other subjects.

What is the structure of the course?

A Level (Year 1)	A Level (Year 2)
<p>Paper 1 – Education with Theory & Methods in Context. Role and purpose of education, differences in educational achievement, educational policy and relationships and processes in schools with the application of research of research methods.</p>	<p>Paper 2 – Media. The new media and their significance for an understanding of the role of the media in contemporary society. The relationship between ownership and control of the media. The media, globalisation and popular culture. The processes of selection and presentation of the content of the news. Media representations of age, social class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and disability. The relationship between the media, their content and presentation, and audiences.</p>
<p>Assessment - Written exam, 33% of A Level Qualification.</p>	<p>Assessment – Written exam, 16.5% of A Level Qualification</p>
<p>Paper 2 – Culture and Identity. Study of socialisation, forms of culture, concepts of self and identity, including: social class; age; gender; ethnicity; disability; sexuality; nationality.</p>	<p>Paper 3 – Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods. Theories of crime and deviance, globalisation, crime control, suicide. Sociological theory, research methods and the theoretical debate of sociology as a science. Additionally an in depth study of sociological research methods including theoretical, practical and ethical considerations.</p>
<p>Assessment – Written exam, 16.5% of A Level Qualification</p>	<p>Assessment – Written exam, 33.3 % of A Level qualification</p>

What opportunities are there for me to study beyond the classroom?

Sociology students should look out for conferences at local universities. As well as this, it is useful to visit local law courts taking an interest in topical issues and listen to the news on television or radio.

What kind of career does this subject/qualification prepare me for?

Most universities offer Sociology as a first degree and at post graduate level. Sociologists go on to work in the media, law and other institutions of criminal justice, public relations, market research, social work, nursing, foreign aid and development and teaching; many of course are inspired to stay in an academic environment researching aspects of sociology for the remainder of their careers.