

# SOCIOLOGY



**What is Sociology?** Sociology is the **study of society**. It is a social science which uses **investigation** and **critical analysis** to develop a body of knowledge about human activity. Sociological research can lead to social policy. Studying sociology offers insights into social and cultural issues. It helps you develop a multi-perspective and critical approach to understanding issues around culture, identity, religion, crime, families and social power.

## What will I learn?

At A-level there are three exams, each account for one third of your A-level grade.

### **Paper 1: Education and Theory and Methods, 33.3% of A-level**

2 hour written exam (80 marks)

Section A: Education: short answer and extended writing, 50 marks

Section B: Methods in Context, extended writing, 20 marks

Section C: Theory and Methods: extended writing, 10 marks

- **Education and methods in context:** You'll consider the role of education in society. For example as part of your studies you'll look into gender and ethnicity differences in school achievement. You'll also learn how to apply your own sociology research methods to the study of education.

- **Research methods:** You'll learn how to conduct your own sociological research, from interviews to reviewing documents and official statistics.

### **Paper 2: Topics in Sociology, 33.3% of A-level**

2 hour written exam (80 marks)

Section A: Families and Households, extended writing, 40 marks

Section B: Beliefs in Society, extended writing, 40 marks

**Families and Households:** You will study the differing opinions on the different types of families in society today such as lone parent households, same-sex parents, nuclear families etc.

- **Beliefs in Society:** You will learn about the relationship between different social groups and religious/spiritual organisations and movements, beliefs and practices

### **Paper 3: Crime and Deviance, 33.3% of A-level**

2 hour written exam (80 marks)

Section A: Crime and Deviance, short answer and extended writing, 50 marks

Section B: Theory and Methods, extended writing, 30 marks

- **Crime and deviance.** You'll learn about criminal and deviant behaviour, including factors that might lead a person to follow this path in life and how the media portrays them.

- **Theory and methods:** you'll expand on your knowledge of research methods and study theory.

### **What skills will I learn?**

Our A-level Sociology will help you develop a range of skills that will benefit you, whether you decide to go on to further study or the working world, including:

- the use of evidence to support your arguments
- how to investigate facts and use deduction
- critical thinking
- making reasoned arguments
- developing opinions and new ideas on societal issues
- the ability to analyse and better understand societal issues.

### **Entry Requirements**

**English– 6**

**Maths– 5**

**Science– 5**

Exam board: AQA

Link to course specification: [here](#)

Link to example exam papers: [here](#)



## Complementary Subjects

There's no limit to the other subjects that you can take alongside sociology. There's such breadth to the subject that it will complement just about anything. Students who study sociology often also study psychology, English and media studies. But students, who want a career in any of the caring services, or in marketing or business, will find an understanding of sociology useful.

## Enrichment in Sociology

- Conferences—to improve subject knowledge and exam technique
- Trips and visits—include court visits and religious buildings
- Guest speakers—people in the field of Sociology and research.

### Here's what our students think!

*'Sociology has really opened up my eyes about how I view and perceive things in everyday life— I find it so interesting and intriguing.'*

*'Sociology is my favourite subject. I love our class discussions and the fact we can bring in our own opinions, this subject should be taught to everyone!'*

## Careers in Sociology

Sociology is a great choice of subject for people who want a career in the following fields..

- Social work
- Nursing or medicine
- Marketing
- Advertising
- PR
- Journalism
- Law
- Teaching
- Police and probation services

*" Studying sociology gave me a good foundation from which to improve and undertake further learning in my training to be a Probation Officer. Understanding how individuals have become involved in crime, as well as how systems and society as a whole respond to individuals who fail to abide by the law, has helped me to tailor my methods of working with offenders in order to successfully to rehabilitate and reintegrate them into society."*

### Kirsty Probation Officer

*'I really like how Sociology keeps up to date with current news. It's a really dynamic/modern subject.'*