

A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY



WHAT IS SOCIOLOGY

Sociologists are interested in why society works in the way that it does and the extent to which our behaviour – and even opportunities – can be shaped by our social class, age, gender and race. We question the society in which we live in order to understand the relationship between individuals and institutions such as the Education System, Religion and the Mass Media.

WHY CHOOSE SOCIOLOGY

Sociology prepares you for a lifetime of change by developing your appreciation of diversity, love of learning, writing and study skills, and your knowledge base about human behaviour, social organization, culture, and social change.

Sociology will challenge you to look critically at the world around you, to consider alternatives to how things are in society today and it enables you to apply your imagination to think the impossible possible.

It will open your mind and it will open doors to your future academic and vocational progress.

It is fun !!

THE A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY SPECIFICATION

The A Level Sociology specifications for use in England are:

- Assessed by examination only
- Are linear, with assessment at the end of the second year.
- Require good literacy skills. You will need to develop written skills of analysis and evaluation

OUR APPROACH TO TEACHING AND LEARNING

Building on our reputation for excellent resources:

- We place a strong emphasis on allowing students to take responsibility for their own learning and to provide them with a full range of learning experiences. Sociologists are naturally inquisitive and enjoy a good debate!

- We emphasise the development of examination skills alongside subject understanding building on the experience of our team as Sociology Examiners
- We have a flexible teaching approach but understand the need to complete homework, respect deadlines and set high standards
- We use high-quality learning materials including our unique workbooks (which we produce ourselves) and which have been rated as excellent by our students
- We have a range of online learning and assessment materials.

A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY

For the A Level you will study the following topics:

- Families and households
- Education
- Beliefs in Society
- Crime and Deviance

In all topics current debates are considered, for instance:

- How effective are families in modern society?
- Why are girls doing better than boys in education?
- Is religion still important in Britain today?
- Is the fight against crime unwinnable?

A LEVEL ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed by three written examinations in the summer of year 2.

Paper 1 – Education with Theory and Methods.

Written examination: 2 hours
33.3% of qualification

This includes topics such as why do girls do better than boys in school. How can we account for differences in attainment by race and social class?

Paper 2 – Topics in Sociology

Written examination: 2 hours

33.3% of qualification

This includes questions on Families and Households as well as on Beliefs in Society

Paper 3 – Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

Written examination: 2 hours

33.3% of qualification

This includes questions such as which forms of punishment are most effective in crime prevention. Who commits crimes? What factors account for the rise of 'girl gangs'? What does the crime rate tell us about society?

ENTRY AND SKILL REQUIREMENTS

What are the entry requirements for A Level Sociology?

- Minimum of Grade 4 in GCSE English Language
- General course entry requirements in line with the College policy

Please bear in mind, there is a high level of literacy skills required in this subject. You will need to write many essays during the year and in the exams.

What if I don't meet the entry requirements for A Level Sociology?

The Humanities department offers GCSE Sociology.

SUBJECT COMBINATIONS

Sociology can be studied in combination with a wide variety of other subjects. In particular, it fits well with Politics, History, Geography, Criminology, Psychology, Classics, Law, Religious Studies, Economics, English and Business.

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