

A Level Sociology – An Overview

What will I study?

Have you ever wondered why things are the way they are? Why are some people more likely to commit crime than others? Why girls do better than boys at school? Why once poor you may always be poor? What impact has religion had on society? In simple terms, Sociology is concerned with society and the individuals within it. The subject matter deals with a range of different perspectives and the views they have on a wide range of social issues, structures in society and ways in which we can research them.

In the first year you will study “Education with Theory and Methods” and “Families and Households”. In the second year you will study “Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods” and “Beliefs in Society”. Research and perspectives run throughout the course.

How will I study?

Lessons will vary in style depending on the topic being studied and will involve class discussion, making notes, supported self-study, working in groups and detailed examination preparation. Homework will reflect the wide range of learning opportunities set on a regular basis and is used, in addition to tests, to monitor your progress. You will be expected to make full use of your noncontact time. The Library has a well-stocked reference section, subscriptions to several specialist journals and a wide range of other materials. Audio-visual, computer software and web-sites are used to enhance learning strategies.

You cannot expect to do well in Sociology unless you are prepared to undertake extensive wider reading around the subject into perspectives and research undertaken by Sociologists.

We study AQA Sociology and the specification can be found here –

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/sociology/specifications/AQA-7191-7192-SP-2015.PDF>

Home Learning

You will be expected to take extensive notes from the wider reading you undertake. You will also be set regular examination style questions throughout the course.

How is Sociology assessed?

There will be three examinations that you will sit in the summer of 2023. Each of these will last for two hours and each is worth one third of your overall A Level grade.

Sociology : Transition Home learning Task

Education

1. Briefly explain two reasons why girls outperform boys at GCSE
2. Briefly explain three ways in which school prepares students for the world of work
3. Briefly summarise the study ‘Learning to Labour’ by Paul Willis

Families and Households

1. Briefly explain how individualisation has affected diversity of family types in the UK

2. Briefly explain how affluent love may lead to an increase in divorce rate
3. Briefly summarise the study 'The Sociology of Housework' by Anne Oakley

Beliefs in society

1. Briefly explain two reasons why some ethnic groups may be more religious than whites
2. Briefly explain the principle of religious de-territorialisation
3. Briefly explain the Kendal Project's findings into secularisation

Crime and Deviance

1. Briefly explain two reasons why the working class may commit more crime than the middle class
2. Briefly explain how crime statistics may be socially constructed
3. Briefly summarise Stuart Hall's study 'Policing the Crisis'