



A Level Sociology

Key contact: Mrs H Ryder (Head of Department)

Exam Board: AQA

"The fascination of Sociology lies in the fact that its perspective makes us see in a new light the very world in which we have lived all our lives." Peter Berger.

Overview of the course:

- **Education**
- **Methods in Context**
- **Research methods**
- **Families & Households**
- **Beliefs in Society**
- **Crime & Deviance**
- **Theory & Methods**

An understanding of an increasingly complex modern world is, many would argue, essential to success within it. Sociology, an academic subject in its own right, can equip you with the necessary knowledge and understanding to see where you yourself fit into society, and where you may want your career to lead.

What will you study?

Some questions you will tackle include:

- How has family life changed over the years?
- Are women any more liberated now than 50 years ago?
- Why is there inequality in education?
- What is the purpose of education?
- Is religion beneficial for society?
- Are we more religious now than 100 years ago, why/why not?
- Why do certain people turn to crime?
- Is there a particular type of crime that is becoming more common in society?
- How should we study society? What are the strengths and limitations of different methods?

New to Sociology or continuing from GCSE?

This subject can be taken as a new subject or a continuation from GCSE. Do not worry if you are new to it, the first year begins with an overview of the key perspectives such as Functionalism, Marxism and Feminism.

In Sociology we look in considerably more depth at what it is that makes modern society tick, and therefore a genuine interest in contemporary social issues is required. Independent study and exploration of current issues are vital skills for success in this subject.

Assessment

The A Level is assessed via exams – there is no coursework involved.

As this is a linear course, content from across the two years of study will be examined at the end of the second year.

- Paper 1 = two hours → Education with Theory and Methods
- Paper 2 = two hours → Family and Households and Beliefs in Society
- Paper 3 = two hours → Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods.

All papers carry equal weighting.

Possible career path?

If you are considering a career in nursing or social work Sociology is regarded as a strong subject to give you background knowledge and understanding on society. Other employers who look favourably in the subject are the Police, the media, education services and government health.

Sociology will help you to develop your skills of analysis, evaluation and critical thought. You will learn to research, present and support your arguments in a measured and academic manner.

As far as Higher Education is concerned, Sociology leads naturally into a number of undergraduate courses including Psychology, Politics, Philosophy and Economics and Humanities subjects such as History and Geography. It can also assist in more applied subjects such as Media Studies, Marketing, Journalism, Social Policy and Social Work.

Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs Grade 9-5, including Grade 6 or above in English and ideally Grade 6 or above in GCSE Sociology (if studied) or in a Humanities based subject e.g. History - Grade 5 minimum entry requirement and Grade 9-5 in Mathematics.