



**This is  
me**

# Why?

- Why do you dress the way you do?
- Or think the way you do?
- Or believe what you believe?
- Why do you behave the way you do towards others?
- What job will you end up doing?
- What sort of background are you from?
- Where do you live?

# Why?

- How has society changed over time?
- Have things got better or worse?
- What might happen in the future?
  
- Do the answers to questions like these actually matter to anyone apart from politicians, or academics?

# Sociology

- If you think the answers to those sorts of questions do matter then sociology might be a subject for you
- One you might enjoy and do well at
- Sociology encourages you to think critically about the world around you

# Sociology

- To question things taken for granted
- To go beyond common sense understandings and ask what lies behind them
- To challenge perceptions, assumptions and stereotypes

# Sociology

What's it all about?

# Sociology

- Sometimes defined as ‘the science of society’
- It is a subject which studies societies and their development
- It focuses on the relationship between people and the society they grow up in

# Sociology

- It seeks to explain human behaviour in terms of the interactions we have with one another
- How we are influenced by the physical and cultural environment we inhabit
- Sociologists study society in order to explain how society shapes us and how we, as individuals or broader social groups, help shape society



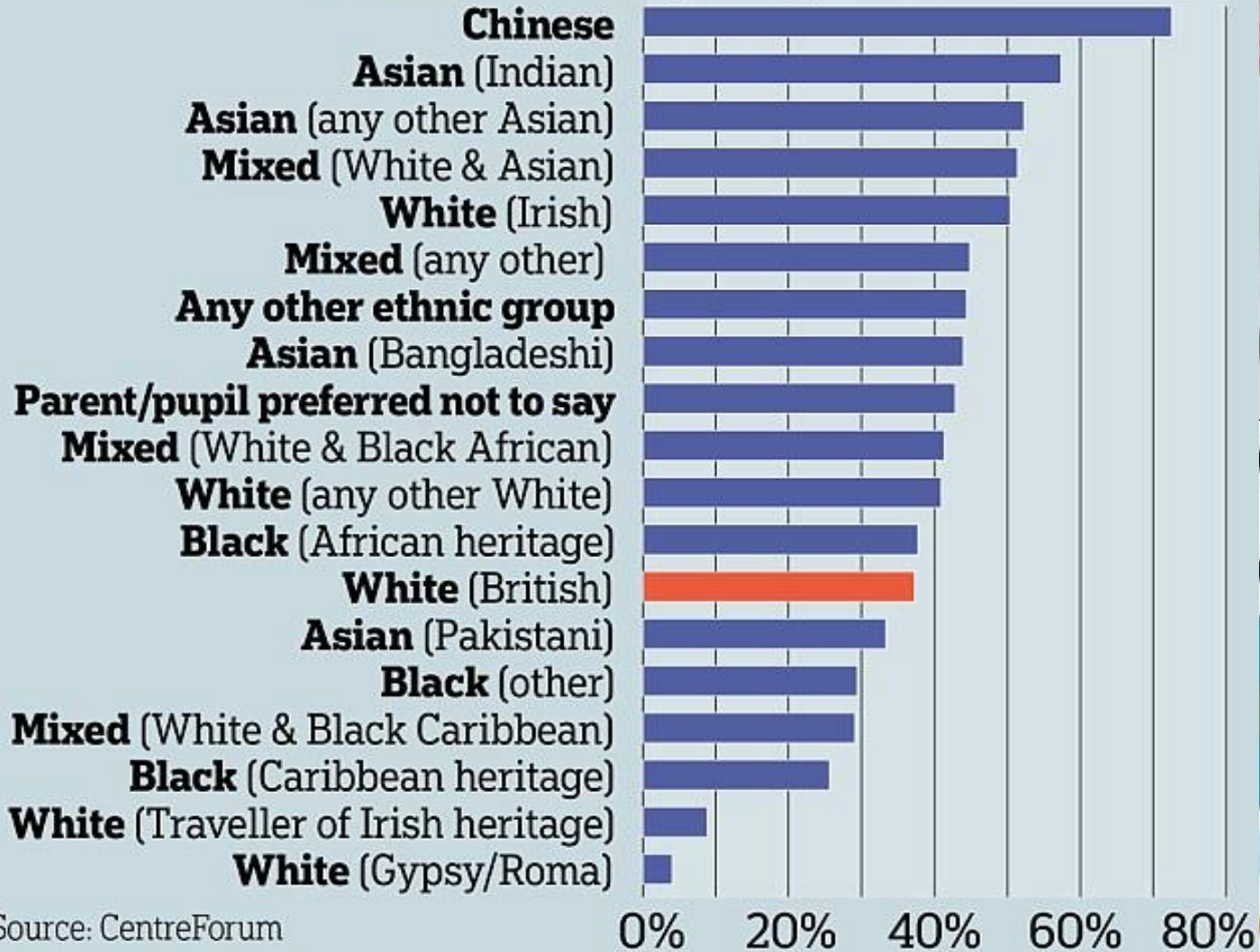
# Sociology

- Sociologists study lots of different things about society
- As part of the A Level course we look at:
  - Families and Households
  - Education
  - Beliefs in Society
  - Crime and Deviance





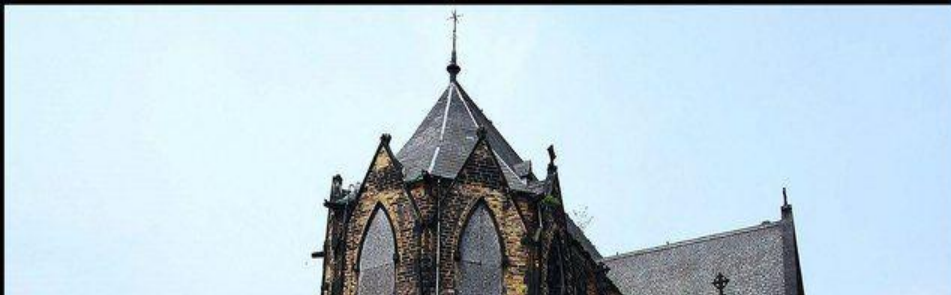
## Per cent hitting targets at 16



Source: CentreForum

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## Biological explanations - Lombroso

- Features of a criminal:
  - Sloping forehead
  - Long arms
  - Large ears
  - Asymmetrical head and face
- 
- If you had these features and liked tattoos then Lombroso said you were a savage primitive man who was born a criminal!
  - Criminals are a separate species without morals



# Sociology

- We also study the Research Methods sociologists use to study society and.....
- .....the different Theories they come up with to explain why society is the way it is
- We also look at a number of sociological themes which crop up in all of the separate topics we study

# Sociology

- Culture and Identity
- Ethnicity
- Social Stratification
- Gender Inequality
- Social Class Differences
- Demographic Changes
- The Importance of the Media.....
- .....and more

# Sociology works well with.....

- History
- Psychology
- Health and Social Care
- Law
- Media
- Philosophy and Ethics.....



# Sociology

- It is an academic A Level
- It is not easy, but few things truly worthwhile doing ever are!
- Very well regarded by Higher Education Institutions, including the Russell Group Universities
- No coursework
- Three exams at the end of Year 13
- Each one is 2 hours long

# Sociology

- For most of you it will be a new subject full of new language and new ideas
- It involves a lot of reading and you are expected to write essays
- You need a minimum 5 in English, ideally a 6 or above
- If you enjoy it, and work at it, it is incredibly rewarding

Take a look at what some  
previous students think  
about the subject and how it  
contributed to their  
development

I would say to someone thinking about taking Sociology, to go for it. If you are someone who questions the world around you, someone who wants to try understand the people you interact with and have some interest in politics and current affairs this subject is for you.

Personally, I enjoy sociology as I'm now able to construct strong arguments based on current affairs through applying what I have learnt through studying sociology such as issues of Education and social policy.

Personally, I find sociology interesting as it allows me to formulate my own view of the world. The world is constantly changing and sociology allows you to understand these changes, predict social change and push for social change. As humans we are the most complex organisms on earth, traditional science alone cannot explain our behaviours. Sociology is the science of society, big and small from 5 individuals in a school to 7 billion people spread across the world there is no definite answer to why we as social groups behave in certain ways, learning is never ending in the field of social sciences.

I have also found sociology has aided my ability to write. I feel more confident in other subjects I study when approaching evaluation questions as sociology is based on a range of ideas which contradict and complement each other. The skill to evaluate is crucial for success in any academic field.

Sociology is the most relevant of subjects today. We live in a world of increased globalisation, social media has transferred our society onto a virtual platform, communications and social norms amongst our generation are changing rapidly, and the issues that this virtual world produces are becoming apparent. There is a demand for new social thinkers with an understanding of this new social epidemic.

What would you say to someone thinking about studying it at A Level?

Sociology is an interesting subject which can also be enjoyable. I would recommend taking it for A Level as it helps to build your knowledge about the world we live in today and is likely to assist you with other subjects as you also learn about other countries and their history.

Why do you enjoy it?

I enjoy sociology because I find it interesting to learn about modern society as it is important to be aware of current social changes. Also, it is useful to learn about other countries and how different they are from the UK.

What makes it an interesting subject to study?

Sociology is extremely interesting because you learn about many different cultures, religions etc. This is helpful as it expands your knowledge and awareness about the World which is vital. Also, you learn about how people are treated differently due to their class, gender and ethnicity this helps make people aware of current social issues which is important.

What makes it a useful and worthwhile academic discipline?

The subject helps to build your analytic skills as it makes you think about why certain social events occur. Analytical skills are extremely useful and can be applied to other subjects making sociology a worthwhile subject to study.

How relevant do you think it is?

I think sociology is relevant as you learn about modern society which applies to us as you learn about cultural and social changes that happen in modern day to day life. For example, a topic we study is social policy which helps develop your knowledge about the current government. It is important that we understand and know about events that occur and about the world we live in.



# Sociology/Psychology

- Both subjects look at lots of similar issues
- You will find references to psychology and psychologists in sociology texts
- Sociology as an academic discipline tends to focus less on the biological or physiological causes of human behaviour
- Instead it focuses on the importance of social interaction and how nurture determines the kind of people we become

# Want to know more?

- Email me at: [d.fell@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk](mailto:d.fell@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk)
- Visit the examination board website at:
- <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level>
- Sociologists often think about issues that are controversial or that divide opinion. On each of the remaining slides in this presentation, you will see a statement which poses a question or expresses an opinion
- Sociologists carry out research to gather evidence that can be used to answer questions and allow people to make judgements that are better informed

Should faith schools be encouraged as part of the UK education system?

What does it mean to be British?

Should alcoholics, drug addicts and the mentally impaired be compulsorily sterilised?

Lone parent families are a social  
problem

Gay people shouldn't be allowed to  
raise children

God is dead! If not dead, he's on his  
last legs!



Prejudice and discrimination are things  
of the past

Age, ethnicity, gender and class don't matter. We're all equal and have the same chances

The typical criminal is young, male,  
working class and black

There is no such thing as society