

Sociology

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Entry Requirements

5 in English Language

Exam Board

AQA

Why study Sociology?

Sociology is about the study of societies, how they work and how they change. You will learn how societies shape people's ideas and behaviour and how in turn, people interact and shape their societies. You will also have the chance to consider your own experience of the world around you and develop the knowledge and skills needed to play a part within the community.

Topics covered at A level:

Unit 1 Education with Theory and Methods

Key questions include – Is society a meritocracy? Is human action a consequence of society?

Unit 2 Families and Households and The Media

Key questions include – Is family diversity now the norm?

Does the media accurately represent society?

Unit 3 Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

Key questions include – Why do individuals break the law?

Method of Assessment

A Level:

Paper 1 Education with Theory and Methods: 2hr Exam

Paper 2 Families and Households and Beliefs in Society: 2hr Exam

Paper 3 Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods: 2hr Exam

Qualities Required

Students need an open and enquiring mind, an interest and awareness in current affairs and the social issues of today.

Links with other subjects

Sociology is a Social Science and therefore combines well with both Science and Arts based subjects. For example, students have combined Maths, Chemistry and Sociology or English, History and Sociology, along with various other permutations.

AQA Sociology contributes significantly to personal development by building a range of important skills and understandings. It supports intellectual development by encouraging critical thinking, analysis, and evaluation, as students learn to question social structures and assess different sociological perspectives. It also strengthens communication skills, as students must write clearly, construct arguments, and use evidence effectively in essays and discussions. In addition, sociology promotes social and moral development by exploring issues such as inequality, crime, and diversity, helping students develop empathy, tolerance, and a strong sense of fairness. It further enhances cultural awareness by examining a variety of cultures, norms, and values, which supports a broader understanding of society and contributes to spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development. Moreover, sociology aids personal identity development by helping individuals understand how factors like socialisation and institutions shape their beliefs, behaviours, and sense of self. Finally, it prepares students for future life by equipping them with transferable skills and knowledge useful for careers and active citizenship, enabling them to engage more thoughtfully and responsibly within society.

Career Prospects

Many students go on to Higher Education and have followed diverse ranges of degrees, Maths, Social Sciences, Law, Business, Medicine, Media, English, Criminology, Education, Biology, etc.

Students are better equipped to express their views, present balanced arguments and have an analytical, evaluative mind. Other students who have pursued a career at 18 have gone to work in Insurance, Law, Administration, Police, etc.