



Sociology

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Course Aims

- ✓ To encourage students to develop a critical and reflective way of thinking;
- ✓ To foster a respect for social diversity;
- ✓ To acquire sociological knowledge and a critical understanding of the world around you and your place in it;
- ✓ To develop a sociological imagination.

Qualifications and Qualities Needed

Students should have a grade 6 in GCSE English.

Course Structure

Exam board: AQA: www.aqa.org.uk

You will study a range of topics and all units are assessed by written exam.

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods	(Exam, 33.3% of A-level)
Paper 2: Topics in Sociology	(Exam, 33.3% of A-level)
Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods	(Exam, 33.3% of A-level)

Education investigates the role and function of the education system, differences in achievement by ethnicity, gender and social class and the possible explanations for these and the significance of different educational policies.

Families and Households looks into the changing relationships within the family with reference to gender roles, domestic labour and power. Changing patterns regarding marriage, divorce and childbearing and the resulting diversity of family and household structures are also investigated. You will also learn how the nature of childhood and the status of children have changed over time.

Beliefs in Society asks questions such as: What factors help to explain secularisation and the rise of religious fundamentalism in contemporary society? Does religion control and oppress us or can it be a force for liberation and social change? Why do people join cults or sects and what impact do these have on people's lives? What impact has globalisation had on the spread of religion?

Crime and Deviance investigates who commits crime and why, globalisation and the media, state crime and green crime and investigates punishment, prevention and social control.

Future pathways

Sociology is a well-respected academic discipline and an excellent stepping stone for further study and a range of careers. Each year a number of our students choose to continue studying Sociology at university or related degrees, such as Criminology or Social Policy.

In particular, obvious careers for people with qualifications in Sociology include social work, government administration, education and the civil service. However, it is equally applicable to jobs in the private sector, such as management (in particular human resource management), leisure services and law.