



A-level Sociology

Board and Specification: AQA 7192

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Subject specific entry requirements:

- Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics
- Grade 6 or above in GCSE English Literature and/or Language
- Grade 5 in GCSE Science

What skills are required of students?

- The ability to learn and retain theoretical information thoroughly and quickly
- The ability to conduct research of key topics outside of class time
- The ability to apply abstract ideas to concrete examples, as well as interpreting real life situations through theoretical ideas.
- The ability to produce focused critical essays on a range of topics.

Course Details

Sociology is an attempt to understand the complex social world in which we live. Throughout your time studying A-level Sociology, you will look at a range of accounts of how society functions (or doesn't) such as functionalism, Marxism and feminism. In your first year, you will look at the role of education and the family within society, and how these institutions shape the way we experience the world in a wider context (for better or worse). You will also learn about the research methods used by sociologists and have a chance to carry out some research yourself.

In the second year of your A-level course, knowledge of year 1 topics will be developed through discussions of post-modernism and globalisation, and a greater concentration on theoretical issues and debates. You will also apply this knowledge to further investigation of religion and beliefs in society, as well as crime and deviance. Your understanding of these topics- as well as your application of theory and methods- will be assessed in three written exams. Shorter questions test your ability to outline key concepts, while longer essay questions will check your evaluative skills.

Modules titles and codes:

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods – Written exam: 2 hours; 80 marks in total; 33.3% of A-level

Compulsory topics:

Education

Methods in Context

Theory and methods

Paper 2: Topics in Sociology- Written exam: 2 hours; 80 marks in total; 33.3% of A-level

Topics include: Two of the topics below (CWLC students will study the choices in bold)

Culture and Identity

Families and Households

Health

Work, Poverty and Welfare

Beliefs in Society

Global Development

The Media

Stratification and Differentiation

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods – Written exam: 2 hours; 80 marks in total; 33.3% of A-level

Compulsory Topics:

Crime and Deviance

Theory and Methods

What kinds of work will you do in class and at home?

Research

Reading

Essay writing

Writing notes

Conducting your own sociological research

Investigating modern society with sociologist theories

Complex discussions

What other A-levels does your subject connect well with?

Sociology can be used to inform and support other A-level subjects including: A-level Psychology, A-level History, A-level Religious Studies, A-level Politics, and A-level English Literature.

What types of university course will be helped by this A-level?

Sociology, English, history, law, criminology, politics, nursing, social work, education

