



A-Level Sociology (AQA)

Sociology means learning about people and society. From birth, the people around us have influenced who we are and what we become. As a sociologist, you will study the society we live in and try to understand what makes people behave in certain ways, hold particular beliefs and what influences them to make their individual life choices. You will participate in research and discussion as well as developing your ability to analyse and present your findings in essays.

The course would lead to Higher Education opportunities, such as studying Social Sciences, Criminology, Politics or Social Policy. It could lead to careers in Policy Making in the Government, Social Work, Researcher posts or Teaching.

Qualities and qualifications needed

- Must have an interest in 'what makes society work'.
- An ability to read extensively outside of the classroom and complete independent learning of other kinds.
- Must have a good written style and willingness to write extended essays.
- Knowledge and competence in statistical mathematics.
- Grade 5 in English language or Grade 5 in Philosophy and Ethics (if studied) is desirable.

How will the course be assessed?



Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods
(33.3% A-Level)



Paper 2: Topics in Sociology
(33.3% A-Level)



Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods
(33.3% A-Level)



Course content

Year 1

- **Research methods**
Looking at how data can be collected and evaluating methods such as interviews, questionnaires and experiments.
- **Education**
Students look at theories relating to education and link in their work on research methods to look at studies in education.
- **Family and Households**
Students look at family types and the role of the family in socialisation.

Year 2

- **Crime and deviance**
Students look at the issue of crime in society including the roles of gender, ethnicity and class influencing crime.
- **Beliefs in society**
The relationship and influence between religion including mainstream as well as cults, sects and new age movements.
- **Theory**
Theoretical understanding of society looking at postmodernism and theoretical interpretations of society and research.



Examinations



In the A-Level, Paper 1 comprises short answers and extended writing worth 50 marks; an extended piece of writing worth 20 marks, and an extended writing task worth 10 marks.



Paper 2 offers 80 marks: an extended writing task on the Family worth 40 marks, and an extended writing task on the Media worth 40 marks.



Paper 3 is again worth 80 marks comprising a short answer and extended writing on Crime and Deviance worth 50 marks; and an extended writing task on Theory and Methods worth 30 marks.

Methods of teaching and learning

Students will be taught in the classroom. As with all A-Level subjects it is expected that students will complete a great deal of independent learning each week in order to fully prepare them for their study each week.
