

SOCIOLOGY

A Level Sociology

Code: AQA A Level Sociology 7192

Taught hours per week: 6 hours

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Why Choose Sociology?

'The function of sociology, as of every science, is to reveal that which is hidden' **Pierre Bourdieu**

Sociology is the study of society, social relationships, and the ways in which individuals shape and are shaped by the world around them. Through different sociological perspectives, such as Marxism, Feminism, and Functionalism, you'll explore how society operates, who holds power, and why inequalities exist. For example, when studying education, you might examine why students from working-class backgrounds often face barriers to academic success, or how gender can affect opportunities. In the study of crime, you'll investigate why certain groups are more likely to be criminalised and how issues like poverty, racism, or media influence play a role.

What You Will Study

Year 1:

Education and Methods in Context

Explore how education influences society, with a focus on issues such as gender, class, and ethnicity. You'll investigate why some groups succeed in school while others may struggle. You will also learn to apply research methods to explore these questions, gaining a deeper understanding of how to study education sociologically.

Research Methods

Sociology is built on research, and you'll learn to conduct your own sociological investigations. From interviews to surveys, and from analysing documents to using official statistics, you'll gain the tools needed to understand society in an evidence-based way.

Topics in Sociology (Option)

You'll have the opportunity to explore one of the following options:

Culture and Identity
Families and Households
Health
Work, Poverty and Welfare

Year 2:

Crime and Deviance with Theory & Methods

Dive deep into the causes of criminal behaviour and how society defines what is "deviant." You'll explore how crime is portrayed in the media, why certain groups may be more likely to engage in criminal activity, and how sociologists research and explain these phenomena.

Theory & Methods

Expand your understanding of sociological theories, building on what you've learned in Year 1. You'll study classic and contemporary sociological thinkers, exploring how their theories help explain the structure and dynamics of society.

Topics in Sociology (Option)

Continue your exploration with one of the following topics:

Beliefs in Society
Global Development
The Media
Stratification and Differentiation

Assessment

Sociology A Level is assessed by three written examinations at the end of Year 2:

- **Paper 1:** Education with Methods in Context
- **Paper 2:** Topics in Sociology (from your optional choices)
- **Paper 3:** Crime & Deviance with Theory & Methods
Each exam is 2 hours long and worth 33.3% of your final grade.

Skills and Career Progression

Sociology opens doors to a wide range of careers by developing skills in critical analysis, research, and communication. Whether you're interested in social work, law, journalism, human resources, marketing, teaching, or policing, Sociology equips you with valuable insights and transferable skills that are highly sought after in many fields.

Entry requirements

English grade 6 or above plus one Humanity subject or a 6 in GCSE Sociology

