

Why study A Level Sociology?

As a subject it sits especially well with psychology and other humanities subjects: philosophy and ethics; history; geography. Sociology is the study of people and society. It aims to find out why people act the way they do, usually focusing on groups of people. You will get to look at a range of topics which try to understand why the world is the way it is. If you are someone who questions why inequality exists, why those in power are in control or how the world can be improved, sociology is the subject for you!

What will I study?

Over the two years, you will cover the following topics: education – why do girls perform better on tests than boys, why do certain cultures seem ‘smarter’ and do schools contribute to educational inequality?; families and households – why are birth rates decreasing, what is going to happen with our aging population and how have family structures changed over the last 100 years?; beliefs in society – how are religions organised, why are women oppressed in religions and how do religions avoid societal change?; crime and deviance – what is corporate crime, does the media play a role in crime and how can we prevent crime?

You will also cover research methods over the two years. You will study the various sociological theories such as: functionalism; feminism; Marxism; and postmodernism.

Assessment

100% examined.

Paper 1: Education with theory and methods. Written exam of 2 hours in length, consisting of short answer and 10, 20 and 30 mark essay questions.

Paper 2: Topics in sociology. Written exam of 2 hours in length, consisting of short answer and 10 and 20 mark essay questions.

Paper 3: Crime and deviance with theory and methods. Written exam of 2 hours in length, consisting of short answer and 10, 20 and 30 mark essay questions.

Study trips, visits and events

There are student conferences throughout the year from when you are just starting out to nearing the exams. There is also an opportunity to enter a national competition to win goodies for your school by simply writing a sociology essay on the year's chosen topic.

Subject entry requirements

5 in either English Literature or Language.



Student Perspective

“Sociology seemed like the perfect subject for me to explore all of the key issues. It also went well with my other two subjects: History and English Literature. So far, I am enjoying looking at different sociological theories and linking them to different social policies. The three theories we have learnt are: functionalism, Marxism and feminism; they have made me see my other subjects and the world I live in differently. I can't wait to learn more!”

Izma, A Level Sociology student