



A Level Sociology - Course Information

Exam board - AQA A-level Sociology

What is A Level Sociology?

Sociology is the study of society, how it is organised, how it shapes our lives, and how we can influence social change. It explores human behaviour, social institutions, and cultural norms, encouraging students to question the world around them and think critically about issues such as inequality, identity, power, and social order.

Sociology helps you understand why society functions as it does and how social structures such as education, family, and media affect individuals and groups differently.

What does the course involve?

- Exploring and debating key social issues such as gender inequality, crime and deviance, and the role of education in society.
- Investigating how sociologists use research methods to collect and interpret data.
- Evaluating different sociological perspectives, including Marxism, Feminism, and Functionalism.
- Analysing how social change and globalisation influence modern society.

Entry Requirements: Grade 4 in Maths, 5 in English and 5 in any Humanities subject

What themes are studied and how is it assessed?

- Family
- Education
- Theory and Methods
- Crime
- Beliefs
- Theory and Methods

How is it assessed?

Assessment is through three written exams at the end of Year 13, testing knowledge, application, analysis, and evaluation across all topics.

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods – *Written exam: 2 hours (33.3% of A Level, 80 marks)*

Paper 2: Topics in Sociology (Families & Beliefs) – *Written exam: 2 hours (33.3% of A Level, 80 marks)*

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods – *Written exam: 2 hours (33.3% of A Level, 80 marks)*

What are lessons like?

Lessons are discussion based, encouraging students to debate and evaluate different viewpoints. Activities include analysing sociological data, applying theories to contemporary issues, and using media, documentaries, and case studies to explore real world examples. Students are expected to complete independent reading, research sociological studies, and engage with current affairs to deepen their understanding of society.

Where Can Sociology Take You?

Sociology develops key transferable skills such as critical thinking, communication, data interpretation, and essay writing — all highly valued by universities and employers. Students often progress to degrees in Sociology, Criminology, Psychology, Politics, Law, Social Policy, or Anthropology. A Sociology qualification can lead to careers in social research, education, law and criminology, journalism, HR, social work, and community development. Sociology encourages curiosity, empathy, and analytical thinking — essential for understanding and improving society.

For more information about the course, please see Miss McFarlane