

Sociology

Exam Board: AQA

What is Sociology?

Sociology is the study of society. It is about all kinds of social relationships that people share with each other; in their families, in their schools and in work. It involves the systematic study and explanation of human social life, groups and societies. Sociologists aim to investigate and understand the social world and human behaviour within it. They are particularly interested in understanding the ways in which society influences us and shapes our lives.

In studying sociology, you will be actively involved in exploring and asking questions about the society in which you live. Studying sociology offers you opportunities to gain a greater understanding of society and to make sense of your own experiences within it. Sociology can be both thought provoking and challenging because it forces people to rethink some of their common-sense views and assumptions.

Social theory is important in Sociology. It teaches us that there are no right or wrong answers when it comes to studying the way that people live together. What is important for a sociologist is the ability to evaluate evidence and choose between possible explanations.

What do I need?

Good grades in English language and literature are helpful when considering studying sociology, but the most important qualification is a sense of commitment and a willingness to work hard at a subject, which can sometimes be difficult to grasp at first.

If you're the type of person who can handle working at a demanding pace, who's not afraid to see the world in a different light and who wants to look deeper into the things we take for granted every day, then sociology is the subject for you!

- **You should be confident in English as there are many essay-based questions to answer in your exam.**
- **You may also benefit from studying a humanities subject such as RE and philosophy, Geography and History as some of the knowledge is cross-curricular.**

You should be able to work independently. You should be a confident reader able to read textbooks for information and write detailed but concise answers in exams. You will need to develop the ability to present ideas, supported by evidence, in structured, effective essays and you will need good time management skills.

What will I learn?

Students study material which is examined in three papers:

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods

Paper 2: Topics in Sociology (Families and Households and Beliefs in Society)

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

How will I be assessed?

All three examination papers are 2 hours in duration and equally contribute to 33.3% of your final A Level Sociology mark. The examinations contain both short and extended writing questions.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Sociology is a great if you enjoy literacy, writing essays and debating ideas and considering different viewpoints. It really is a contemporary subject which we are involved in! It can help equip you for further studying and careers in Law, Politics, Health and Social Care and social research for government agencies.