

Sociology

A-Level

Overview

If you like to think about society and question things, then Sociology is for you! It is a subject that encourages you to see the world from different perspectives. Sociology is a good choice for anyone interested in people and the way we live.

Why Study

Sociology offers a distinct and highly illuminating perspective on human behaviour. Learning to be a sociologist means taking a step back from our own personal interpretations of the world, to look at the social influences which shape our life choices – from when, or whether, to have children to why people abide by or challenge laws. Studying sociology also helps you to understand and appreciate cultural differences and similarities, a very useful skill in our increasingly globalised world.

A Level Sociology works well alongside other humanities and social science A Level subjects such as History, Geography and Psychology but also complements the sciences, Business Studies, Economics and art subjects or works within a multi-disciplinary approach to A Level choices.

Course Overview

Students will critically evaluate sociological theories in regard to crime and punishment; the changing nature of family, childhood and demography; religion, secularisation and new religious movements such as cults and the New Age; and theories in regard to the purpose of education and reasons for varied levels of achievement across social groups. All topics are referenced to sociological perspectives, theories, research methods and government social policies.

Assessment: The A Level qualification consists of three two-hour papers. All topics are examined through short answer questions, stimulus material questions and essays, requiring knowledge of research methods, sociological theories and perspectives.





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Progression

As a subject, sociology has universal currency and is well represented in higher education, the majority of universities offer three year degree courses allowing students to gain a BSc or BA in Sociology, often combining it with Criminology, Psychology or other related subjects. Sociology A Level is an excellent preparation for degrees in Sociology, Psychology, Criminology, Law, History, Theology, HSPS, PPE, Archaeology & Anthropology, Social Work, International Relations, Development Studies, Media Studies, Marketing and Business Studies. The study of sociology as the main element or as part of a combined degree at university can lead into careers in the civil service, police, military, politics, lobbying, social work, healthcare, teaching, the media and business.

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