

“Clearly, society has a tremendous stake in insisting on a woman's natural fitness for the career of mother: the alternatives are all too expensive.”

- Anne Oakley (Feminist perspective)

“The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains.”

-Karl Marx (Marxist perspective)

“We live in a world where there is more and more information, and less and less meaning.”

— Jean Baudrillard, *Simulacra and Simulation* (postmodernist perspective)

Contact Details:

If you would like any additional information on the course please do not hesitate to contact us.

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A Level Sociology



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What is Sociology?

Sociology is the study of society and the ways in which the social world influences our lives.

Whilst Psychology studies the individual mind, Sociology looks at the different groups that we belong to and different roles we play in our lives e.g. as brother, daughter, student, patient or criminal.

Sociology is a critical and questioning discipline and does not necessarily provide those who study it with ready-made answers. Students new to Sociology will need to bring an inquiring and open mind because they will be confronted with ways of thinking about society that are very different to what they are used to. Sociology allows you to gain an understanding of the society you live in through the study of contemporary issues.

Entry Requirements:

Minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade 9-4 (or equivalent) including Grade C in English. Experience shows that your chances of success in this subject are greater if you have a **Grade 5 in English Language**.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students with an enquiring, open mind, particularly those who are prepared to look at issues from different perspectives. Students who like to challenge the status quo and ask critical questions about the society they live in.

What effect does class, gender and ethnicity have on educational achievement? Should the government be interfering with our personal lives? Is there such a thing as an underclass in Britain? An ability to write critical essays and a willingness to be involved in discussions is essential. **You do not need to have studied GCSE Sociology** but it will help with some of the terms and concepts.

The A Level qualification has 3 Papers examined at the end of the second year.

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods

Section A: Education
Section B: Methods in context
Section C: Theory and Methods

Paper 2: Topics in Sociology

Section A: Optional:
Current choice: Family
Section B: Optional:
Current choice: Beliefs in society

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with theory and methods

Section A: Crime and Deviance
Section B: Theory and methods

What do we do in lessons?

It varies from note taking, discussions, questions and answers, class debates, visiting speakers, worksheets, investigations, videos, timed essays and essay plans.

What use will it be in the future?

Sociology allows university entrance to a wide range of degree courses. Careers which follow on from a qualification in Sociology include Journalism, Business Management, Law, Teaching, Advertising, Media and Police and Criminology.

The **A level qualification** focuses on various sociological views such as Feminist, Functionalist, New Right, Post Modern and Marxist theories on the culture and identity, crime and deviance, religion and education. For example: Is education truly meritocratic? What class and gender divisions are their in education?

Why is it women are more likely to be victims of domestic violence than men? Is sexuality a social construct? Is religion a conservative force, or a force for conflict?

All these issues are covered as part of the course. Sociological research methods are also examined which allows students to develop skills in understanding the process and function of sociological research in the academic domain.



Does class affect educational outcomes?