



Sociology

Course Information

Sociology is the study of society and human social behaviour and how and why we act in the way we do. We look at how the world shapes us as individuals and how it moulds our behaviour as a society. We examine different theories that explain human behaviour and debate the impact the world around us has on our lives. If you are fascinated by the behaviour of others and why we act the way we do, then Sociology is the subject for you.

By studying Sociology, you will learn how to research different theories, concepts and arguments. You will learn how to assess the usefulness of different explanations of the world around us. We follow the AQA A level Sociology course.



Course Content

Education with Methods in Context

For this unit students will study among other topics:

- The role and functions of the education system including its relationship to class structure
- Relationships and processes within schools, including pupil subcultures
- Differing educational achievement due to social class, gender and ethnicity in contemporary society
- The application of sociological research methods to the study of education

Families and Households

Below are some of the topics covered as part of this unit:

- Changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation, divorce, childbearing and the life course, including the sociology of personal life, and the diversity of contemporary family and household structures
- Gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships within the family in contemporary society
- The nature of childhood, and changes in the status of children in the family and society
- Demographic trends in the United Kingdom since 1900: birth rates, death rates, family size, life expectancy, ageing population, and migration and globalisation

Mass Media or Beliefs in Society

For this options paper, students will have an opportunity to learn about either the role of the mass media in society or how beliefs can impact upon society. Topics include:

- The new media, globalization and popular culture
- The relationship between different social groups and religious/spiritual organisations and movements, beliefs and practices.
- Representation of the body: gender, sexuality and disability
- The significance of religion and religiosity in the contemporary world.

Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

The study of the topics in this paper should encourage students in theoretical debate while encouraging an active involvement with the research process.

The topics include:

- Deviance and control theories
- Patterns of crime
- Environmental approaches: the criminology of place and time
- Gender issues and offending, ethnicity and crime and the criminal justice system
- Suicide



Entry Requirements

Students must achieve 5 A*-C grades at GCSE including a minimum grade C in History or a grade 5 in English.

Future Opportunities

Sociology is the second most popular subject studied at University. Sociology is an excellent subject for students wishing to pursue a career in Marketing, HR, Journalism, Social Work, Advertising, Law, Teaching or Policing.