

Sociology

Examination Board: AQA

Staff Lead

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Why Study Sociology?

Sociology is present in everything we do. It is a topic that is relevant to your everyday lives. In our current world, society is changing rapidly. Sociology enables you to understand why these changes are happening and see what has led to those changes.

You will develop a detailed knowledge of key sociological theories, such as Marxism, Feminism and Functionalism. You will explore topics such as families and households, education, crime and deviance & beliefs in society. Within these topics you will assess the inequalities that exist within our society, with a focus on gender, ethnicity and social class. Research methods are an important part of the course and you will gain an understanding of how sociologists carry out sociological research.

Sociology provides you with a new skills set, through sociological language, theories and concepts. Using these

skills, you will be able to think critically about the world, the news, politics, research, debates and social change. You will develop and understanding of social power, control and inequality.

Sociology is assessed via three examination units which are two hours each. Each examination unit involves a series of extended writing questions and include 30-mark essay questions.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

Sociology provides a useful foundation for degree courses in a wide variety of subjects. This subject is also relevant for teaching, the police force, nursing, the civil services, the armed forces, social work, the media, advertising, personnel, general management, business and law.

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE, with a minimum average grade score of 4.5. Grade 5, or above in either English Language or English Literature.

Sociology Modules

Paper 1 Education with methods in context (2 hours)	This includes the role and functions of the education system, differential educational achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity and the impact of globalisation on education. Research methods include an understanding of how sociologists carry out sociological research and includes the use of observations, experiments, questionnaires, and interviews. Methods in context looks at the strengths and limitations of using each method to study pupils, teachers, classrooms and schools.
Paper 2 Topics in sociology (2 hours)	Families and households explores gender roles within the family, the nature of childhood and how it has changed and changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation and divorce. Diversity of contemporary families and household structures are also explored. Beliefs in society looks at the role of religion in society according to sociological theory and explores religious organisations including cults, sects, denominations, churches and New Age movements.
Paper 3 Crime and deviance with theory and methods (2 hours)	Explores topics such as class, power and crime and looks at the links between both gender and ethnicity and crime. Globalisation, green crime and state crime are also explored along with sociological theories of criminality.