

Sociology



Exam Board AQA

Qualification GCE A-Level Sociology

Entry Requirements Grade 5 in English Language or English Literature

Content (Outline of Course)

A-Level students will cover the following topics;

Education

- the role and functions of the education system
- differential educational achievement of social groups
- relationships and processes within schools
- the significance of educational policies

Families and Households

- the relationship of the family to the social structure and social change
- changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation, divorce, and childbearing
- gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships within the family
- the nature of childhood, and changes in the status of children in the family and society
- demographic trends in the United Kingdom since 1900.

Beliefs in Society

- ideology, science and religion
- the relationship between social change and social stability
- religious organisations
- the relationship between different social groups and religious/spiritual organisations
- the significance of religion and religiosity in the contemporary world.

Crime and Deviance

- crime, deviance, social order and social control
- the social distribution of crime and deviance by ethnicity, gender and social class
- globalisation and crime in contemporary society; the media and crime; green crime; human rights and state crimes
- crime control, surveillance, prevention and punishment, victims, and the role of the criminal justice system and other agencies.

Assessment

A-Level Sociology is a linear assessment, with all exams at the end of Year 13. There will be no internal assessment that leads to marks that contribute towards the final grade. There are 3 written papers at the end of Year 13 carried out during the summer term. Each paper is 2 hours, worth 80 marks and form 33.3% of the overall grade. All papers contain a mixture of short answers and extended writing.

Careers Guidance

A-Level Sociology is very good preparation for university, where strong essay writing skills are very important. Universities recognise that sociology A-Level provides students with a very good foundation in social, political and policy knowledge. Sociology is regarded as a demanding and rigorous A-Level which combines well with any other combination of subjects. Sociology students go on to a wide range of jobs in policing, research, teaching, medicine, politics and civil service as well as taking jobs in the service sector.