

AS Level and A Level Sociology



Entry Requirements: 4 in English Language. **In addition, an E Grade in AS Sociology is needed to progress to the A Level.** **Exam Board:** AQA **Teachers:** K Bradley, A Wright, L Ward

Timetable Organisation: 5 lessons per week – taught by 2 teachers.

Main Syllabus Area

Why study Sociology?

Sociology is about the study of societies, how they work and how they change. You will learn how societies shape people's ideas and behaviour and how in turn, people interact and shape their societies. You will also have the chance to consider your own experience of the world around you and develop the knowledge and skills needed to play a part within the community.

Topics covered at AS:

Unit 1 Education and Methods in Context

Key questions include – Do schools create social mobility?

Unit 2 Research Methods and Families and Households

Key questions include – Is family breakdown now the norm?

Topics covered at A level:

Unit 1 Education with Theory and Methods

Key questions include – Is human action a consequence of society?

Unit 2 Families and Households and Beliefs in Society

Key questions include – Is family breakdown now the norm? Will religious fundamentalism transform secular societies?

Unit 3 Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

Key questions include – Why do individuals break the law?

Method of Assessment

AS Level: Unit 1 Education and Methods in Context: 1hr 30min Exam

Unit 2 Research Methods and Families and Households: 1hr 30min Exam

A Level: Unit 1 Education with Theory and Methods: 2hr Exam

Unit 2 Families and Households and Beliefs in Society: 2hr Exam

Unit 3 Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods: 2hr Exam

Qualities Required

Students need an open and enquiring mind, an interest in current affairs and the social issues of today.

Links with other subjects

Sociology is a Social Science and therefore combines well with both Science and Arts based subjects. For example, students have combined Maths, Chemistry and Sociology or English, History and Sociology, along with various other permutations.

Career Prospects

Many students go on to Higher Education and have followed diverse ranges of degrees, Maths, Social Sciences, Law, Business, Medicine, Media, English, Criminology, Education, Biology, etc.

Students are better equipped to express their views, present balanced arguments and have an analytical, evaluative mind. Other students who have pursued a career at 18 have gone to work in Insurance, Law, Administration, Police, etc.

Extension and Enrichment Opportunities

The course is not purely “book based” and many visits are arranged so that students can relate academic ideas to reality. Visits have been made to the Magistrates Court, Prison, Police, Newspaper Offices, Schools in other social areas, Coroners Court. Visitors have included Welfare Officers, the NSPCC and the Probation Service.

Co-teachability

The first year of the A level course is designed to be co-teachable with the AS course, so students in any given Year 12 class may be studying for the full AS OR the first year of the A level qualification.