

Subject: Sociology

Level: A Level

Exam Board: AQA



Course Outline

Sociology is the study of social life, social change, and the cause and consequences of human behavior. Sociologists investigate the structure of groups, organisations, and societies and how people interact with these concepts.

What will I learn on this course?

Students will learn about human behaviour, inequalities in society and politics and current affairs.

The course will enable you to:

- Acquire knowledge of, and a critical understanding of, Sociology
- Appreciate how Sociology applies to our everyday life
- Understand sociological research methods
- Reflect on your own experiences
- Develop skills which enhance your ability to participate effectively in adult life

Who would be a successful student of Sociology?

This course will appeal to students who:

- Have a genuine interest in people's behaviour
- Are keen to discuss and debate on a range of controversial issues
- Enjoy taking an analytical approach to social problems
- Have a keen interest in reading and essay writing
- Have a keen interest in politics and current affairs

Career Opportunities

- Charity worker
- Counsellor
- Journalist
- Market Research
- Police Officer
- Probation Officer
- Social Policy Advisor
- Social Researcher
- Social Worker
- Teaching and Education
- Youth Worker

Course Structure

Education

- Different perspectives on the role of the education system in society
- Inequality in the education system
- Relationships and processes within schools, including the impact of teachers, peers, streaming and the curriculum on pupils
- Changes to educational policy and the impact of this on schools, pupils and parents

Families

- Different perspectives on the role of the family
- Trends in marriage, cohabitation, separation, divorce, childbearing and the life-course
- Relationships in the family: gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships
- The nature of childhood
- Demographic trends since 1900

Beliefs in Society

- Ideology, science and religion
- the relationship between social change and social stability, religious beliefs, practices and organisations
- religious organisations, including cults, sects, denominations, churches and New Age movements
- the relationship between different social groups and religious/spiritual organisations and movements, beliefs and practices
- the significance of religion and religiosity in the contemporary world, including the nature and extent of secularisation in a global context, and globalisation and the spread of religions

Crime and Deviance

- Understanding crime, deviance, social order and social control;
- Distribution of crime by ethnic, gender and class group. Offer sociological explanations for these trends;
- Crime in contemporary society: globalization, the media, green crime, human rights and state crimes;
- Criminal justice: control, prevention, surveillance, punishment, victims and the role of the criminal justice system

Theory and Methods

- Different methods of sociological research;
- Practical, ethical and theoretical consideration in research;
- Positivism, interpretivism and the debate over whether sociology can be regarded as scientific;
- Key theories in depth: functionalism, Marxism, feminism, social action theories and postmodernism;
- The concepts of modernity and postmodernity;
- Debates over objectivity, subjectivity and value of freedom;
- The relationship between sociology and the creation of social policy