



What is Sociology?

Sociology is the systematic study of society and human behaviour. Sociology is an exciting and lively subject. It encourages you to question some of the ways in which society is organised and to realise that things are not always what they seem.

For example: How are bullying, and 'screen time' associated with children's well-being? Is the use of media and the 'dark web' responsible for increases in crime? Why do most of the top jobs in society go to students who have been educated at private schools and Oxbridge? Sociology encourages you to question and reflect upon things which others may take for granted.



What will you study?

Paper 1: Education with Theory & Methods

Paper 2: Topics in Sociology - Families & Households and Beliefs in Society

Paper 3: Crime & Deviance with Theory & Methods

Assessment

see table opposite - The course is assessed through three 2-hour exam papers in Year 13. Each paper is of equal weighting and contains a mixture of short answer and extended writing questions.

Assessments

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods

What's assessed

Compulsory content 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3

Assessed

- 2 hour written exam
- 80 marks
- 33.3% of A-level

Questions

- Education: short answer and extended writing, 50 marks
- Methods in Context: extended writing, 20 marks
- Theory and Methods: extended writing, 10 marks

Paper 2: Topics in Sociology

What's assessed

Section A: one from option 1: 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.3 or 4.2.4

Section B: one from option 2: 4.2.5, 4.2.6, 4.2.7 or 4.2.8

Assessed

- 2 hour written exam
- 80 marks
- 33.3% of A-level

Questions

- Section A: extended writing, 40 marks
- Section B: extended writing, 40 marks

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

What's assessed

Compulsory content 4.3.1, 4.3.2

Assessed

- 2 hour written exam
- 80 marks
- 33.3% of A-level

Questions

- Crime and Deviance: short answer and extended writing, 50 marks
- Theory and Methods: extended writing, 30 marks

Getting ready to start your A Level Sociology course

Task1: Watch these two videos to gain an insight into what Sociology is all about. [What is Sociology?](#) and [An Introduction to the Discipline of Sociology](#)

Task2: Gang Leader for a Day. Watch the video that summarises Venkatesh's research into a Chicago crack dealing gang. [Gang Leader for a Day: Sudhir Venkatesh](#). THINK: Why do you think some people have to rely on the 'street gang' for day to day help? What is missing from their society? Extension: Listen to this podcast of Venkatesh reading extracts from his book: [NRP Gang Leader for a Day](#). Do you think he was putting himself in danger? He was covertly observing some of the gang members?

Task3: Explore interesting areas of Sociology by watching one or more of the short Ted Talks. [Sociological Ted Talks](#). Write a summary of the talk in less than 250 words and include your opinion of it.

Task4: Does drill music cause crime? Listen to this Podcast about drill music, crime & social media. [Do we really understand drill?](#) Professor Forrest Stuart at Stanford University explains why we need to understand drill in order to understand the perspective of young black and brown men living in urban poverty. THINK: What other examples can you think of that links music to crime and deviance?

EXTENSION TASK: You may wish to find out more about the course we will be following by buying: [AQA A Level Sociology Book One Including AS Level by Rob Webb et al](#). This is an excellent book and is recommended to support your studies