

AQA A Level Sociology

Why study Sociology?

Sociology can open many career doors and enables students to apply to a wide variety of different professions. Unlike many other subjects, reaching a sociological answer to a social problem or issue is never clear cut or simple. We review many theories and pieces of research and pride ourselves on how much we need to know before answering any of the important social questions in our community. A Level Sociology will enable students to develop skills valued by Higher Education (HE) and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research.

What are the entry requirements?

Grade 6 or above in English Language or Literature, Mathematics, Science, History or Geography.

What will I study?

Education with Theory(repeated in Paper 3) and Research Methods(repeated in Paper 3)

Education

Theories on the role of Education, including Functionalist, New Right, Marxist and Feminist.

Class and achievement - relationship between class and external/internal factors with education.

The significance of **gender** and the **effect on their education** and their **subject choice**.

Ethnicity and achievement - relationship between ethnicity and external/internal factors with education.

Educational Reforms, including all the laws and policies that have directed the education system in today's date.

Research Methods

The relationship between **research methods and education**, understanding different types of **methods/data/logistics**. To learn and understand appropriate **case studies** whilst **linking** them with the correct method/topic.

Introduction to research method – types of data, positivism & interpretivism, factors on choice of methods, researching education, carrying out a survey, and sampling.

Questionnaires – Advantages and disadvantages, Questionnaires when researching the Education system.

Interviews - Advantages and disadvantages, Interviews when researching the Education system.

Experiments - Advantages and disadvantages, Experiments when researching the Education system.

Observations - Advantages and disadvantages, Observations when researching the Education system.

Secondary sources - Advantages and disadvantages, Secondary sources when researching the Education system.

Other research methods - Advantages and disadvantages, Other research methods when researching the Education system.

Theory- (Students are expected to get a general understanding of the theories in Sociology and the arguments surrounding the subject)

Functionalism, Marxism, Feminism, New Right, Post-modernism, Neo-Marxism, and Social Action
Objectivity and Values in Sociology, Sociology and Social Policies, Sociology and Science

Families & Households and Beliefs in Society

Families & Households

Changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation, divorce, child-bearing and the life-course, and the diversity of contemporary family and household structures

The relationship of the family to the social structure and social change, with particular reference to the economy and to state policies

The nature and extent of changes within the family, with reference to gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships

The nature of childhood, and changes in the status of children in the family and society

Demographic trends in the UK since 1900; reasons for changes in birth rates, death rates and family size.

Beliefs in Society

Theories on the role of religion, including Functionalist, Marxist and Feminist.

The nature of religion - relationship between religious beliefs and social change and stability.

The significance of religion and the extent of religiosity in the contemporary world, including the nature and extent of secularisation in a global context.

Religious organisations, including cults, sects, denominations, churches and New Age Movements, and their relationship to religious and spiritual belief and practice.

The relationship between different social groups and religious/spiritual organisations and movements, beliefs and practices.

Different theories of ideology and science.

Crime and deviance with Theory and Methods

Crime and deviance

Introduction to the basic concept of crime and deviance – crime, legal deviance, illegal deviance.

Theories on crime and deviance – non-sociological theories, Functionalism, Marxism, neo-Marxism, Right Realism(New Right), Control, Interactionist and Feminist

Social distribution of crime – age, class, ethnicity and gender.

Control, Punishment and Victims of crime.

Globalisation and Crime

Suicide – criminal, deviant or none.

You will enjoy this course if...

You are fascinated by the way humans behave and how their mind works.

You are interesting in how research is conducted in the real world.

You are good at written exams (mixture of multiple choice, shorter mark questions and longer essay questions).

How will my work be assessed?

The qualification is linear. Students will sit their exams at the end of their A level course.

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods. Examination paper: A mixture of short and long answer questions and extended response questions. Total marks – 80. Duration: 2 hours. 33.3% of the total A level marks.

Paper 2: Topics in Sociology.(Families & Households and Beliefs in Society) Examination paper: A mixture of short and long answer questions and extended response questions. Total marks – 80. Duration: 2 hours. 33.3% of the total A level marks.

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with theory and methods. Examination paper. A mixture of short and long answer questions and extended response questions. Total marks – 80. Duration: 2 hours. 33.3% of the total A level marks.