

A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY **(Eduqas specification)**



Sociology is the study of societies and how they shape people's ideas, their social behaviour and their cultures, and how, in turn, people interact together and shape their societies.

The aim of the course is for students to:

- acquire knowledge and a critical understanding of contemporary social changes
- appreciate the significance of theoretical and conceptual issues in sociological debate
- understand and evaluate sociological methodology
- develop skills that enable individuals to focus on their personal identity, roles and responsibilities within society
- develop a lifelong interest in social issues

Year 1 modules

Component 1: Socialisation and Culture

The unit focuses on 3 core units. Section A focuses on key concepts and processes of cultural transmission, socialisation and the acquisition of identity. Section B covers the Sociology of Families and Households, where we study topics such as family diversity, demographic changes and theoretical perspectives of family life. Section C relates to the Sociology of Education and considers issues including the functions of education, patterns of educational achievement and their causes, social policy and theoretical perspectives.

The unit is assessed by a 2½ hour paper at the end of the second year and accounts for 40% of the A Level course.

Component 2: Methods of Sociological Enquiry

This unit is based on research methods. Students will learn about a range of methods and apply this knowledge to contemporary sociological issues. In year 1, the students will need to demonstrate the ability to assess the methods used in a previous piece of research. In year 2, the students will learn how to plan their own research.

The unit is assessed by a 1¾ hour paper at the end of the second year and accounts for 20% of the A Level course.

Year 2 Modules

Component 3: Power and Stratification

This unit consists of 2 sections. Section A reflects on social class, gender, ethnicity and age inequality in the contemporary UK. We also study and evaluate theories and explanations of inequality. Section B centres on the Sociology of Crime and Deviance, which involves looking at patterns of crime and deviance, ways of measuring crime, the social construction of crime and theoretical explanations of crime and deviance.

This unit is assessed by a 2½ hour paper at the end of the second year and accounts for 40% of the A Level course.

GCSE requirements:

English Language – grade 4 min.

Sociology – 4-5 min. (if taken)

*In total, at least grade 5 in **two** literate subjects*