

# A-LEVEL SOCIOLOGY

## INTRODUCTION

Why am I at school? That's a question pupils (and teachers!) have often asked! Sociology has the answer! In fact it has many different answers to this question, and other questions as well. That's the interesting aspect of Sociology. There's no right or wrong, but much intelligent argument and debate.

Questions such as...

*"Why is the crime rate rising?"*

*"What's the point of families?"*

*"Why do some people get better jobs than others?"*

are all debated and theorised about. Your discursive skills, and ability to make sense of different arguments, will be given the chance to develop. You will also have the chance to engage in social research yourself!

Sociology will not tell you the meaning of life but it will help you to make sense of an ever increasingly complex and bewildering world!

***'Sociology is about me, my family, my friends and my school. I can now understand them a little better (even my family!!)'***

***'Sociology has improved my essay writing and the way I discuss topics.'***

## OPPORTUNITIES

Sociology is an excellent grounding for pupils who wish to study social sciences at a higher level eg Sociology/Anthropology/Social Policy or combinations of these subjects.

It is also a valid and relevant qualification not only for higher education but also for a wide number of careers and professions such as managerial and service occupations.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students must have achieved a grade B in English at GCSE.

## ASSESSMENT

**AS Level:** Units 1 and 2 will be assessed by written exam. Assessment will be by short written answers and essays

**A2 Level:** Units 3 and 4 will also be assessed by written exam. Assessment will be by essays.

### **What do the topics involve?**

#### **AS:**

Unit 1 is the study of Family/households (This unit is worth 40% of the AS overall). Students look at different forms of family, the roles of different members of the family and how the family has changed over time.

Unit 2 looks at education and sociological methods (This unit is worth 60% of the AS overall). Students examine what education is for, educational policy, pupil subcultures and differential achievement in relation to ethnicity, class and gender. In addition, students examine what methods sociologists use in their research.

#### **A2:**

Unit 3 is the study of Religion (This unit is worth 40% of the total A2 grade) Students explore the uses of religion, which groups in society are religious and whether or not religion is disappearing or increasing in importance.

Unit 4 looks at Crime and Deviancy and Theory and Methods (This unit is worth 60% of the total A2 grade). Students study patterns of criminality and causes of crime. They also examine how modern society has changed the nature, extent and punishment of crime. Students also investigate different sociological theories and methods in detail.



**For further information contact**  
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