

Aims of the Course

- Acquire knowledge and a critical understanding of contemporary social processes and social changes
- Appreciate the significance of theoretical and conceptual issues in sociological debate.
- Understand and evaluate sociological methodology and a range of research methods through active involvement in the research process
- Reflect on their own experience of the social world in which they live and apply their knowledge and understanding of Sociology to everyday life
- Develop a lifelong interest in social issues.

Sociology is the study of human social life, groups and society. This subject allows you to examine contemporary issues, social problems, relationships and institutions. Sociology's subject matter is diverse, ranging from crime and deviance and inequality to families and the formation of culture.

Types of Learning Experience:

Students will study three units to achieve the A Level in two years. Facts, figures and research evidence are gained through lectures, seminars, classroom discussion, personal reading books, journals, newspapers and TV documentaries.

Link Subjects:

Sociology compliments any subject at A Level. There are links with Psychology and Health and Social Care.

Progressing to Higher Education:

Sociology is an absorbing, interesting and rewarding subject which is very relevant to life today. It is a recognised advanced level subject for entry to university and Higher Education and is a useful stepping stone to further study in any of the social science areas.

Careers:

Sociology is especially relevant to those wishing to pursue careers in social administration, social work, the criminal justice system, education, marketing and its specialist areas, the police force and, in fact, any area in which an inside knowledge of the working of British society is a prerequisite.

A Level

Unit 1: Socialisation and Culture

Section A: Cultural transmission, socialisation and Identity - Definition of culture, process of socialization and cultural transmission

Section B: Families and households - family forms, demographic trends, relationships and theories

Section C: Education - Patterns and trends, theories, cultural and material factors

Assessment

Written examination (2 hours 30 mins), 40% of total A level.

Unit 2: Methods of Sociological Enquiry

- Research methods - Primary and secondary methods, sampling, practical and ethical issues
- Design and evaluate Sociological research

Assessment

Written examination (1 hour 45 mins), 20% of total A Level.

Unit 3: Power and Stratification

Section A: Social differentiation and stratification - inequality across social groups, social mobility and theories

Section B: Crime and deviance - patterns of crime, measuring crime, the influence of theories and social policies.

Assessment

Written examination (2 hours 30 mins), 40% of total A Level

Entry requirements:

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 at GCSE including English and Maths.

