

AS AND A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY

Examination Board

AQA

Sociology

Sociology is the study of Society, the 'social world'. Sociology looks beyond the day to day and asks what is the real nature of Society, why does it function like it does and for whose benefit?

Sociology asks you to understand and apply key concepts such as power, gender, ethnicity and culture to important and topical issues such as the Family, Education, Crime, Deviance and Religion which shape the world we live in.

Year 1 Content

Families and Households (examined on A Level Paper 2)

Students examine the relationship of the family to the social structure, economy and social policy. We will study the changing patterns of marriage and family life and the gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships that exist within the family in contemporary society. The nature of childhood and changes in the status of children are examined. We also look at changing population trends including migration and globalisation and assess their impact upon family life.

Education (Examined on A level Paper 1)

Students will examine the role of the education system and its links to the economy. We study all the different factors that can affect a child's educational attainment examining both factors inside and outside of the education system. We analyse the impact of education policies and study the impact of globalisation upon education policies. Within education students need to apply sociological research methods to the study of education.

Research methods

Students examine a range of quantitative and qualitative research methods including both primary and secondary data. The theoretical, practical and ethical considerations influencing the choice of topic, choice of method and conduct of research are also studied.

Year 2

Crime and Deviance (A level – examined in Paper 3)

Students study different sociological explanations as to why people commit crime. We examine recent patterns and trends in crime and assess the impact of gender, ethnicity and social class on crime and deviance. We look at crime in a global context, including an examination of state crime, green crime and the impact of media on crime. The role of the criminal justice system is examined including an examination of our current approach to crime control, surveillance, prevention and punishment.

Beliefs in Society (A Level - examined in Paper 2)

Students examine the idea of religion being a force for social change or a force for social stability. Different religious organisations are studied, including sects, cults and new religious movements. We examine the extent of secularisation in a global context and study the spread of religions and the rise of fundamentalism. The relationship between age, social class and gender and religious beliefs is also examined.

Theory and Methods (A Level – examined in Paper 1 and 2)

In year 2 we build on students understanding of the research methods studied in year 1 and examine the relationship between positivism, interpretivism and sociological methods while also assessing the extent to which Sociology can be regarded as scientific. We delve into sociological theory in detail and debate its level of subjectivity and objectivity while also assessing its role within social policy.

A Level exam

Paper one - 4.1 Education with Theory and Methods	Paper two - 4.2 Topics in Sociology	Paper three - 4.3 Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods
Education Methods in Context Theory and Methods	Option 1 Families and Households Option 2 Beliefs in Society	Crime and Deviance Theory and Methods
Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hour written exam • 80 marks • 33.3% of A-level 	Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hour written exam • 80 marks • 33.3% of A-level 	Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hour written exam • 80 marks • 33.3% of A-level
Questions Education: short answer (4, 6, 10 and 30 mark questions) total - 50 marks Methods in Context: extended writing, 20 marks Theory and Methods: extended writing, 10 marks	Questions Section A: extended writing, 40 marks :Families and households 4.2.2 (10, 10 and 20 mark questions) Section B: extended writing, 40 marks Beliefs in Society 4.2.5 (10, 10 and 20 mark questions)	Questions Crime and Deviance: short answer and extended writing,(4, 6, 10, 30 mark answers) 50 marks Theory and Methods: extended writing, (10 and 20 mark questions) 30 marks