

## A-LEVEL / AQA / 2 YEARS

# SOCIOLOGY

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Sociology is the study of society. It enables us to understand more about the social and group forces which shape all our lives. The subject maintains that the key to understanding modern society is from the belief that all ideas and behaviours are shaped by social groups and structures.

Sociology looks at the modern world from the perspective of social groups, particularly those associated with social class, gender and ethnicity. The course will also introduce students to the competing sociological theories of Marxism, Functionalism, Interactionism, Feminism and the New Right. There is a heavy emphasis on becoming familiar with the studies, ideas and theories of sociologists working within these ideological frameworks. A key feature of the course is knowledge of the research methods used by different sociologists and a general awareness of methodological theory and practice. The course considers how sociological approaches have impacted on social policy in recent years.

Topics are: Education with Theory & Methods and Methods in Context, Crime and Deviance with Theory & Methods, Topics in Sociology: 1. Culture and Identity, 2. The Media

Students will learn through a variety of methods, but with an emphasis on good essay construction, the ability to evaluate between competing sociological approaches, and using materials to become familiar with a wide range of sociological studies and quantitative and qualitative research methods.

### ASSESSMENT

Assessment is entirely exam-based with three two-hour exams consisting of mainly essay-based questions at the end of the course.

### SUBJECT COMBINATIONS

Sociology is an essay-based social science and thus combines best with subjects such as Politics, Classics, Law, Philosophy, Economics and History.

### CAREERS/HE INFORMATION

A qualification in Sociology can be useful in many areas of life. Careers in social work, media, teaching, the Civil Service and local government, the legal profession, the police and community care are all examples of employment which will be better informed by a knowledge and understanding of Sociology.