

# Sociology A Level

**Exam Board: AQA 7191 and 7192**

**Subject Specific Criteria:**

- **Grade 5 in either GCSE English Language**
- **Grade 5 in two humanities subjects (inc. RS)**

Sociology is the study of society, people and their behaviour. It examines the ways in which social structures and institutions shape our world and attempts to explain the different forces and influences that create the society in which we live. It is the fifth most popular A Level in the country with an average of 36,000 entries over the last three years

You will be equipped with the skills and foundations of Sociology. Throughout the two years you will study the sociological theories and perspectives that underpin the subject, using these to assess and debate the course topics as well as current affairs.

Sociological research methods are also taught across the two years so that you can appreciate the way in which research is conducted and how it can have an impact on government policies and initiatives.

Throughout the course you will have ample opportunity to voice your opinions, debate and explore issues within modern day society.

**Units of study:**

**Year 12:**

- Education with Theory and Methods
- Families and Households

**Year 13 :**

- Beliefs in Society
- Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

**A Level Assessment:**

There are three, two hour exam papers carrying equal weighting which are all sat at the end of the second year. A combination of short and extended writing questions will require you to demonstrate knowledge, application, analysis and evaluation skills. All three exams have a standard format which you will become accustomed to during your studies.

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods.

Paper 2: Topics in Sociology (Families and Households, Beliefs in Society).

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods.

**Skills Required:**

There is no requirement for students to have studied Sociology previously at GCSE, for most students this is a completely “new” subject and therefore it is important to do some research into what the subject entails prior to starting the course. Key skills will be taught throughout the course, however a genuine interest and enthusiasm for studying, discovering and analysing society, current affairs and political issues is key.

**Course Information:**

Sociology combines well with many study areas. Psychology, English Literature and Language, Religious Studies, History and Business Studies are traditional partners. It also is useful for those seeking medical or health-care careers.

**Future Opportunities:**

Skills and knowledge developed throughout this course are valued for a range of degree courses at university. Many universities offer Sociology degrees as well as combined courses whereby students can study Sociology alongside another subject such as Psychology, Criminology, English or Biology.

Typical career sectors for Sociology include social/market research, media and journalism, law, politics and social policy, business, health, teaching and education. Though in practice the field is much wider.