

Sociology

Qualification: A-Level Sociology
Additional Entry Information: GCSE English Language grade C
Speak to **Miss N Jones** for more information.

What do students need to know or be able to do before taking the course?

Students will need to have good numerical and communication skills to study sociology. The course includes essays, questions with data-rich stimulus materials and survey sampling.

What will students learn on this course (skills and course content)?

Students will develop an understanding of changing British society as well as sociological methods and research. The emphasis on skills allows learners to develop and demonstrate their 'sociological imagination' by focusing on their own personal identity, responsibilities and roles within society.

Throughout the course we analyse society through the dimensions of age, social class, gender and ethnicity. We also look at the ways sociologists from different theoretical perspectives such as Marxism, feminism, post-modernism and the New Right have interpreted the differences in society.

In year 12 students learn about the process of socialisation and how interactions in the home, school and elsewhere form an individual's personal identity. We then go on to examine youth cultures in contemporary society and recent history such as punks, grunge and emos. The course also looks at the process of sociological research and the methods used plus the impact of the 4 social dimensions in the education system.

In year 13 students will develop their understanding of research methods and plan small-scale research projects. We look at social inequality in detail, focusing on the statistical evidence of inequality in society then analysing the reasons behind this. A large part of year 13 is spent looking at the topic of crime and deviance.

What sort of student is this course suitable for?

Sociology suits students who take an interest in issues that impact on society as a whole. There are no requirements for prior study but they may have enjoyed the human aspects of Geography and the elements of RE that reflect society.

What kind of work will students need to be able to do outside of lessons?

As with any A-level, it will be important for students to keep up with coursework. Students will need to keep abreast of the news and be able to comment on how political decisions impact on society.



What is the course content and how is this assessed?

Year 12 AS

Unit 1 - Acquiring Culture

Written Exam – one structured question on the key concepts and processes of cultural transmission, socialisation and the acquisition of identity and an extended essay on youth culture - 15%

Unit 2 - Understanding Society and Methods of Sociological Enquiry

Written Exam - one compulsory question based on stimulus material which will be a synopsis of a piece of sociological research plus questions on education from a sociological point of view – 25%.

Year 13 A2

Unit 3 - Power and Control

Written Exam – crime and deviance – 25%

Unit 4 - Social Inequality and Applied Methods of Sociological Enquiry

Written exam - One compulsory question which will require students to design, justify and evaluate a piece of sociological research plus questions on the theme of social differentiation and stratification – 35%.

What could students go on to do at the end of this course?

The emphasis on skills means that Sociology is a good starting point for academic studies in the humanities (social and political sciences, economics, geography etc.) but also for vocational studies in health and social care.

Many of our students go on to university to study degrees in:

Sociology

Psychology

Criminology

Education

Social Work

Health Care

