A Level Sociology (AQA)

Head of Department: Miss L Matthews

100% A*-B in 2026

Sociology is the study of how society is organised and how we experience life. Sociology's subject matter is diverse, ranging from crime to media, from the family to the state and from the divisions of race and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture. It raises questions such as "How does the media influence our behaviour?" and "Why do people commit crimes?" It is not a subject that provides quick answers but it helps you think about the underlying issues. Sociology makes you look at the world in new ways and challenge existing ideas.

Progression routes

Employers, training providers and universities accept Sociology qualifications at this level as an entry qualification. The A Level qualification may lead to:

- Undergraduate study in a wide range of social sciences, humanities or vocational subjects. Popular degree courses our students progress to study include Law and Criminology.
- A wide range of career options, including law, policing, social work and social care, public relations, politics, journalism, teaching and management, amongst others.The list is endless, as you learn a range of research and communication skills which are highly valued in today's workplace.

In Sociology you also acquire generic skills as you progress through the course. For example:

- Critical Thinking i.e. not accepting facts and figures at face value
- Literacy – writing essays, as well as summarising key concepts
- Evaluative and analytical skills
- Research skills
- Communication skills

Year 12

Families and Households – changing patterns of marriage, divorce and cohabitation, power relationships and social policies effecting families.

Research Methods – how sociologists conduct their research and the theoretical, practical and ethical considerations that influence research.

Education – the purpose of education, why certain groups have different rates of achievement within the education system and the relationship between teachers and pupils. You will also look at how sociologists conduct their research into education.

Year 13

Media – media representations of different groups in society, the impact of the new media and the selection and presentation of the news.

Crime and Deviance – different explanations of why people commit crime, the effectiveness of the criminal justice system, state crime and human rights.

Theory and Methods – examining sociological theories in depth and considering the relationship between sociology and social policy.

