

# GCE Advanced Level Sociology



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## Description:

The aims and objectives of the AQA GCE Advanced Sociology are to enable students to:

- Understand society and its relationship to the individual through the study of interesting and diverse topics linked by the overarching concepts of (i) socialisation, culture and identity and (ii) social differentiation, power and stratification.
- Have the skills and theoretical understanding to conduct their own research
- Develop knowledge and understanding, skills of application, analysis and evaluation

Students are introduced to Sociology by learning about key sociological perspectives, theories of socialisation and the impact of class, gender, ethnicity and disability. Students will be expected to apply their knowledge to particular topics but also keep abreast of current events and relate their learning to developing issues. Knowledge and understanding is deepened in Year 2 and students take three two hour exams at the end of that year.

## Career Paths:

Many Sociology students go on to take degrees in Sociology or a related field such as Anthropology, Criminology or Education. Sociology is also considered good preparation and an acceptable entrance qualification for other courses at degree level.

Common career pathways taken by Sociology graduates include:

- Journalism
- Law
- PR and marketing
- Social research
- Politics
- Charity developmental work
- Teaching
- Social work
- Nursing
- Charity developmental work

It is also a useful subject for those not wishing to go to university and wanting to follow careers such as the police, armed forces, civil service and working with children or the elderly.

## Entry Requirements:

5 or more Grade 5 GCSEs or BTEC equivalent including Maths and Grade 6 in English, with a 6 or higher in History or Geography.

## Course Details & Assessment:

During the 2 year course, students will study four themes. These will prepare them for three exams to be sat at the end of the second year.

### Theme 1:

#### Education:

- The relationships between class, gender and ethnicity and educational achievement
- Recent reforms to the educational system

#### Theory and methods

- The nature of sociological thought
- The methods of social enquiry
- Methods in context

### Theme 3:

#### Media

- The significance of new media including social media
- The relationship between ownership and control of the media
- The processes behind the selection and presentation of the news
- Media representations of age, social class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and disability
- The effects of the media on their audiences

### Theme 2:

#### Families and households:

- The different family structures over time and place and current trends regarding marriage and divorce
- Demography
- Childhood and relationships between family members

### Theme 4:

#### Crime and deviance

- Contemporary society through a detailed study of crime and deviance
- The social construction of crime and deviance
- The ways in which crime is socially distributed, explained and reduced

#### Theory and methods

- The nature of sociological thought, the methods of social enquiry

**Paper 1:** Education with Theory and Methods (Theme 1) 33.3%

**Paper 2:** Topics in Sociology (Themes 2 and 3) 33.3%

**Paper 3:** Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods (Theme 4) 33.3%



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