

Sociology

Exam Board: AQA

Sociology is the study of society. Sociologists are interested in explaining why society works the way it does and the extent to which our behaviour, experiences and life chances are shaped by our social class, age, gender and ethnicity.

Integral elements

- Sociological theories, perspectives and methods
- The design of the research used to obtain the data under consideration, including its strengths and limitations.

Core themes

- Socialisation, culture and identity
- Social differentiation, power and stratification.

Contemporary UK society

The central focus of study in this specification should be on UK society today, with consideration given to comparative dimensions where relevant, including the siting of UK society within its globalised context.

Topics covered

Education with Theory and Methods – Compulsory unit

- The role and functions of the education system, including its relationship to the economy and to class structure
- Differential educational achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity in contemporary society
- Students must be able to apply sociological research methods to the study of education.
- The distinction between primary and secondary data, and between quantitative and qualitative data

Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods – Compulsory unit

- Crime, deviance, social order and social control
- The social distribution of crime and deviance by ethnicity, gender and social class, including recent patterns and trends in crime
- Globalisation and crime in contemporary society; the media and crime; green crime; human rights and state crimes
- crime control, surveillance, prevention and punishment, victims, and the role of the criminal justice system and other agencies.

Topics in sociology – Optional units

- **Option 1**

4.2.1 Culture and Identity

4.2.2 Families and Households

4.2.3 Health

4.2.4 Work, Poverty and Welfare

- **Option 2**

4.2.5 Beliefs in Society

4.2.6 Global Development

4.2.7 The Media

4.2.8 Stratification and Differentiation

Assessment methods

Students will sit 3 x 2 hour papers at the end of the course.

Education with theory methods	Crime and deviance with research methods	Optional unit
Exam paper 1	Exam paper 2	Exam paper 3
2 hours	2 hours	2 hours
33.3%	33.3%	33.3%

Sociology goes well with Politics, Philosophy & Ethics and English.

Joanne Carlyle
Head of Sociology