

Sociology

A-LEVEL

EXAM BOARD AQA

COURSE CONTENT

Component 1: Education with Methods in Context

Students will explore the nature of the education system and the differing opportunities of success for certain pupils, based around social class, gender and ethnicity. Why are some people less likely to succeed in school than others? Students will also consider new ideas such as ‘the hidden curriculum’, what do we really learn in school?

In addition to this, Component 1 consists of learning the various research methods used by sociologists and relate those methods to the Education System.

Component 2: Families and Households and The Mass Media

Families and Households; Students will see the patterns and trends of societal changes regarding the family from 1900 until the present, resulting from attitude changes and Government Policy changes – gender equality being a good example. How equal are the UK’s families in 2018?

The Mass Media; When studying the media, students will explore ideas such as the power of the media in shaping the way that we think and feel. Students will consider how the media reinforces stereotypes – and if those stereotypes pose wider problems in society. Do you control ideas that you read, watch and hear? Or can you only see what is available? Do you believe everything that you read in the newspapers?



Component 3: Theory and Methods and Crime and Deviance

Theory and Methods; During the course, students will have become familiar with sociological perspectives such as Marxism, Feminism, Functionalism and Postmodernism. Students will have the opportunity at this point to explore these

ideas like this in greater depth, with some new ideas linked in!

Crime and Deviance; Students will consider the ways in which the state aim to control peoples’ behaviour and what happens when this does not work. Students will research into how certain social groups (such as social class, gender and ethnicity) appear on crime statistics in a disproportionate way and the reasons behind this. They will also debate on how society should deal with offenders.

ASSESSMENT

Component	Assessment	Duration	Weighting
1.	Written exam	2 hours	33.3%
2.	Written exam	2 hours	33.3%
3.	Written exam	2 hours	33.3%

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Sociology will provide you with a greater insight into how people work and why they behave and think in certain ways which will help in many career settings and life overall! There are a number of more specific and direct routes that Sociology can guide you down such as: Teacher, Management, Mental Health Worker, Social Worker and Working within Social Services, Counsellor – of which there are many types, Lawyer, Sociological Researcher, Work in the media e.g. Journalist, Probation Officer, Police Work and Political Work - Just to name a few!