



Sociology A Level

Sociology is the systematic study of society and the groups within it. It is about looking at the world you live in through a different lens to try to understand some of the problems and issues that face society and how society has changed through the generations. It is about looking at the experiences of different social groups and trying to understand their views and the structural causes of their experiences.

In your study of sociology, you will develop skills of objective and analytical writing, critical thinking, discussion and debate, as well as how to look at a situation from multiple viewpoints. You will need to be able to question assumptions about society and the rules by which we live our lives as well as examine how our experiences maybe different to others and may shape the choices and decision that we make in our own lives.

A Level Sociology consists of a 2 year course with all examinations at the end of Year 13.

Paper 1- Education with Theory and Methods

Paper 2- Topics in Sociology (Families and Households/Beliefs in Society)

Paper 3- Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

What will you study?

Topic 1 Families and households

Everyone will have had an experience of family in one shape or another and this unit helps you to understand the different types of family that exist in the world and the UK today. You will understand the social and demographic changes that have occurred and led to these changes and the increase in family diversity and the impact this has had on wider society.

Topic 2: Education

At this stage of your education you have much more choice over what you study. This unit helps you to understand the processes within the education system that may have influenced your decisions and the path that you have taken. It will also help you to understand the processes within schools and the impact that can have on educational achievement.

Topic 3 Beliefs in society

It is suggested that the UK today is a secular society, however in this unit you will consider if that statement is really true, or if in fact religious belief and practice has become more private so it just appears that religion no longer plays a role in society. This unit will also help you to understand the role that religion plays in an individuals lives as well society in general. The study of different religious groups will also help you to understand why people join these groups as well as the similarities and difference between them.

Topic 4 Crime and Deviance

The criminal justice system impacts almost all aspects of our lives, including controls on our behaviour, telling us what we can and cannot do, to punishing us when we violate norms of behaviour. This unit will help you to understand the impact of the criminal justice system and the role it plays in maintaining our society. You will also look at how the criminal justice system impacts different groups in society

Topic 5 Theory and Methods

This unit provides the background and basis for all sociological study. It provides the bones on which you will be able to build up your sociological knowledge and understanding of the social world. This unit will take you through the main sociological perspectives and how they view the social world as well as the different ways that sociologists conduct research into social phenomena. This will be built upon as we go through each of the topics we study.

Careers

Sociology is a good umbrella subject, meaning that it supports a number of careers and degree courses as one of the key skills of a sociologist is to look at the world in an objective and critical way.