



SOCIOLOGY IN THE SIXTH FORM

INTRODUCTION TO THE SUBJECT

Sociology is the study of society and human social behaviour.

The aim is to understand and explain the relationship between the large-scale structure and culture of a society and the social behaviour of individual social actors in every-day social situations. Committed sociologists also aim to change society. The subject is suited to students who have an interest in contemporary social issues and those who are interested in developing a critical understanding and awareness of the world around them.

A LEVEL COURSE

We follow the Cambridge International syllabus.

In Year 12 students study:

- Competing theoretical perspectives (Marxism, functionalism, Weberianism, feminism and postmodernism) and the relationship between the structure of society and social behaviour.
- The relationship between the culture of society, the socialization process and the creation of class, gender, ethnic and age identities.
- Methodological approaches (positivism, interpretivism and realism), quantitative and qualitative methods (experiments, questionnaires, interviews, observations etc.), research studies (longitudinal, ethnographic and case studies etc.) and the criteria used to evaluate them.
- The family as a cultural institution; the changing role of the family, explanations for contemporary trends and the changing roles and responsibilities of family members.

In order to achieve an AS Level qualification (worth up to 20 UCAS tariff points) students sit two public examination papers at the end of Year 12 (AS re-sits are also available in Year 13).

In Year 13 students study:

- The changing role of education in society; explanations for class, gender and ethnic differences in attainment and the relationship between education policies and social mobility.
- The changing role of religion in society; class, gender, ethnic and age differences in religiosity and the relationship between religion and social change.
- The changing role of the media in society; class, gender, ethnic and age stereotypes and the relationship between the media and social behaviour.

In order to achieve an A Level qualification (worth up to 60 UCAS tariff points) students sit two public examination papers at the end of Year 13. AS and A2 marks are combined.

A LEVEL RESULTS 2019

GRADE	A	B	C
Sociology	50%	33%	17%

CO-CURRICULAR

Classroom and school-based learning has been supplemented with attendance at student conferences and at an annual political and cultural festival in central London. Other trips have included a visit to Sevenoaks Magistrates Court as part of a unit of work on Crime and Deviance. Students also have the opportunity to attend evening lectures at the London School of Economics.

COURSE COMBINATIONS

Sociology combines well with other social science subjects such as Politics, Economics and Philosophy. There are links with the humanities disciplines of Geography and History and sociological themes are explored in English Literature, Drama and Theatre, and Art and Design. Some students also enjoy Sociology as a contrast to the study of the natural sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics).

CAREER/UNIVERSITY OPTIONS

UCAS list over 100 educational institutions, including Oxford and Cambridge, that together offer over 1,000 pure and combined Sociology courses. Sociology also forms part of many other programmes of study including business, medical training, geography, environmental science, and the sports & health sciences.

The combination of skills developed through the study of Sociology provides students with a wide range of educational and career opportunities. The British Sociological Association (BSA) has identified potential areas of employment and the main areas in which Sociology students have been successful. These include management, public relations, journalism, education, the civil service, local government, research, health care, social work, criminal justice, voluntary sector work etc.

