

A Level Sociology

What is Sociology?

Sociology is the study of society - how people interact in groups.

A level Sociology examines social behaviour from a variety of perspectives: how it originates and then develops, and the ways people are organised into groups according to distinctions such as class, gender and race.

A level Sociology also looks at the institutions and forces which shape and are shaped by groups within a society, such education, media and the criminal justice system.

Entry requirements

5 GCSEs at grade 5 or above including English language and maths.

How will I be assessed?

3 examinations will take place at the end of the 2-year programme (2 hours in length).

Careers in Sociology

- Advice worker
- Community development worker
- Further education teacher
- Further education lecturer
- International aid/development worker
- Policy officer
- Social researcher
- Social worker
- Youth worker
- Secondary school teacher
- Housing manager



The following units are studied:

Year 1

Culture and Identity

The module focuses on the socialisation process and the role of various agencies of socialisation in shaping identity. Additionally, it examines how identity, the self, and differences are both socially caused and socially constructed.

The relationship between identity and factors like age, disability, ethnicity, gender, nationality, sexuality, and social class is also considered, highlighting their influence on individuals' sense of self in contemporary society.

Finally, the module connects identity to broader global processes, including production, consumption, and globalisation, offering students a comprehensive view of how identities are formed and expressed in a globalised world.

Mass Media

The contemporary media module explores the evolving role of media in society, emphasising the impact of new media technologies on communication and social interaction. It examines how media ownership and control shape the content and influence the power dynamics within the industry.

The module also delves into the effects of globalisation on media and popular culture, highlighting how cultural products circulate and influence societies worldwide.

Additionally, it addresses the processes through which news content is selected and presented, as well as the media's representation of age, social class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and disability.

Finally, it investigates the complex relationship between media content, its presentation, and the ways in which audiences interpret and engage with it.

Year 2

Education

We explore the role and functions of the education system, particularly its relationship to the economy and class structure. It examines how social class, gender, and ethnicity impact differential educational achievement among various social groups.

The module also focuses on key relationships and processes within schools, such as teacher-pupil interactions, pupil identities, subcultures, the hidden curriculum, and the organisation of teaching and learning.

Additionally, it looks at the significance of educational policies, including those related to selection, marketisation, privatisation, and efforts to promote equality, while considering the impact of globalisation on educational policy.

Crime and Deviance

The Crime and Deviance module in AQA Sociology examines the concepts of crime, deviance, social order, and social control, exploring how societies define and regulate deviant behaviour.

It investigates the social distribution of crime and deviance, focusing on the influence of ethnicity, gender, and social class, as well as analysing recent patterns and trends in crime.

The module also addresses the impact of globalisation on crime, the role of the media in shaping perceptions of crime, and explores issues like green crime, human rights violations, and state crimes.

Additionally, it delves into crime control, surveillance, prevention, punishment, the experiences of victims, and the role of the criminal justice system and other related agencies in managing crime.