



Sociology

AQA A level Sociology



Sociology is a vibrant and exciting subject that provides a great deal of insight into our society and the way it operates. It's a fascinating field of study that explores the relationships between individuals and groups, as well as the structures and cultures that shape our lives. By learning about sociology, we can better understand the complexities of our society, become more aware of our own beliefs and biases, and gain a better understanding of how social systems, organisations, and institutions work.

Topics you will study

Year 12:

Families and households – what is a family? How have families changed recently and what are the reasons for the changes? Are couples becoming more equal? What are explanations for domestic violence? Is childhood a social construct? How have the changing birth, death and migration rate changed the population in the UK? What government policies have affected the family?

Education – what is the role of schools? What are the reasons why some people succeed in education, and some do not? How has government policy impacted the education system?

Research methods – the strengths and limitations of the different methods that sociologists use for investigating society.

Year 13:

Crime and deviance – why do some people commit crime? How reliable are crime statistics? What is the role of the police, the courts and the prisons? Is crime a real problem in society or is it over-represented in the media? How does globalisation link to crime and what is corporate crime? Who is most likely to be a victim of crime?

Beliefs in society – has science replaced religion in modern society? What role does religion play in society? Is religion a force for change or does it support the status quo? What are New Religious Movements? What is religious fundamentalism? Which members of society are more likely to be religious and why? Is science another belief system?

Why study this subject?

- You will develop a deeper understanding of how culture, values and beliefs shape our lives
- You will develop your ability as a critical thinker, communicator, analyst and leader – skills highly valued by employers

Why study this subject at Aston?

- Teaching team of Sociology graduates with many years' experience of teaching, tutoring and examining.
- Smaller class sizes than college allowing for more personal support

Assessment

Your grade will be based on three 2- hour exams in summer of Year 13.

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods

Paper 2: Families and Households, Beliefs

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

Links particularly well with these subjects

Psychology, English Language and Literature, Health and Social Care.

Entry requirements

Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language or English Literature [and Sociology if studied]

Useful for careers in....

Sociology is especially helpful for the following careers: forensic science, social work, law, teaching, police, family support, journalism, marketing.