

# Sociology

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Sociology is a rigorous academic subject which explores how society shapes our ideas and behaviour. Students will understand society's structures, processes and contemporary issues. Sociology is exciting, interesting and incredibly relevant to the lives of students. Sociology is the study of how society is organized and it emphasises the power of institutions in determining human behaviour. After studying Sociology, students will take away a completely different way of thinking about the world around them. Students will develop critical thinking skills and the ability to analyse and interpret the world around them.

There are three 2 hour exams taken at the end of Year 13. There is no coursework. The majority of marks in this subject are from essay writing, and so students taking this course need to be comfortable structuring essays, expressing their knowledge and understanding effectively. Some of the topics studied in Sociology are listed below:

## Overview

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<b>Education</b>	Different views on the role of education; examining educational achievement by gender, class and ethnicity; pupil subcultures; government policies on education.
<b>Research Methods</b>	Qualitative versus Quantitative methods. It explores how sociologists conduct surveys, interviews, observations and experiments.
<b>Families and Households</b>	Changes in family and household structure; changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation, divorce and child bearing; it explores changing gender roles in families. It examines gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships within the family in contemporary society.
<b>The Media</b>	Does TV make us violent? Is news content distorted? It explores the relationship between ownership and control of the media and it explores the media, globalisation and popular culture.
<b>Crime and Deviance</b>	What is the difference between crime and deviance? Why do people commit crime? It explores theories on different criminal activity and question the accuracy of what crime statistics tell us. It studies issues surrounding social class, gender, ethnicity and crime. It examines crime control, surveillance, prevention and punishment in society whilst dissecting the role of the criminal justice system.
<b>Theory &amp; Methods</b>	Extensive examination of how sociological theories and perspectives influence the way research is carried out.

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## Topics you will learn in first year:

- Education
- Methods in Context
- Research Methods
- Families and Households

## Topics you will learn in second Year:

- Crime and Deviance
- Theory and Methods
- Mass Media

## Career Opportunities

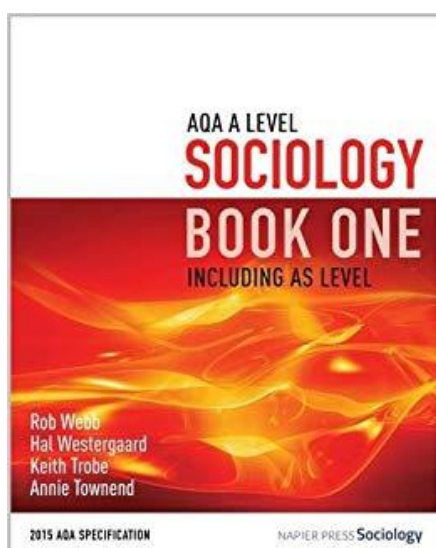
This course combines well with a wide range of other subjects including Psychology, Religious Studies, History, Geography, English Literature and Government & Politics.

Throughout the course students will discover how to interpret, apply, analyse and evaluate key arguments within the modules that they study over the two year course. The independent study skills learnt in Sociology are excellent preparation for University. This A-Level is particularly beneficial for students looking to progress directly on to degrees in Sociology, Psychology, Criminology, Law, History, Politics and Social Work. Sociologists go on to work in the media, law and other institutions of criminal justice, public services, market research, social work, counselling, family support work and teaching.

## Recommended Textbooks in Sociology

Please note: The cost of textbooks is between £20-25. However, new copies are not essential, as good second hand books are available on Amazon.

Year 1 Sociology Textbook



Year 2 Sociology Textbook

