



# A Level Sociology

Sociology is the study of the development, structure and functioning of human society, including the study of social problems.

Sociology requires open minds, critical thinkers, good organisation skills, and independent learners. The subject is constantly updating and as well as looking at 19th century sociologists, we also analyse up to date studies and current affairs, as well as students conducting their own research in topic 2.

Assessment is by three external examinations at the end of Year 13.

## COURSE CONTENT

### 1. Families and Households

This module includes studying the relationship of the family to social structure and social change; changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation, divorce and the life course; gender roles; changing status of childhood; and demographic trends since 1900.

### 2. Education with Research Methods

This module includes studying explanations of the role and purpose of education; sociological explanations of differential educational achievements of social groups by class, gender, and ethnicity; relationships and processes in schools such as subcultures and the hidden curriculum; educational policies; and sociological research methods.

### 3. Beliefs in Society

This module includes studying different theories of religion, sociological explanations of the purpose and role of religion, religious organisations, religions and social groups, and the debate of secularisation.

### 4. Crime and Deviance with Research Methods and Theory

This module includes studying theories of crime and deviance; explanations of the social distribution of crime and deviance trends; contemporary issues in the sociology of crime such as effects of globalisation and the mass media; sociological views of the criminal justice system, and the study of research methods and theory.

**Private Study:** Students are expected to do much work outside of the classroom, ranging from writing essays, to note taking, or research. They are asked to do the following:

- Write up and expand on notes made in class
- Prepare and write essays
- Read around the subjects/topics being studied
- Use the library, for access to a wider range of material

**Careers:** A qualification in Sociology can lead to a number of careers, such as teaching, law, journalism, business, politics, public relations, social work, nursing, media work and science. Due to the fact that sociology is accepted as both an arts subject and a science subject, it has the advantage of being flexible in the work place.

**Entry Requirements:** The minimum entry requirements for Level 3 academic study apply. In addition, applicants will need to have achieved at least Grade 6 in English.

For further information please visit [www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology](http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology)