

A-level Sociology

Overview

A-level Sociology is the course for students who enjoy working with others and having lively, knowledgeable debates on different social subjects. You will develop greater empathy towards a range of communities, opening you up to learn more about a diverse range of ideas and beliefs. You will also develop critical thinking skills which are highly valued by universities.

Key Facts

Start Dates:

- 9 September 2024
- 6 January 2025

Colleges:

- Brighton

Entry level:

- Academic: Completed 10 years of schooling (GCSE or equivalent)
- English: IELTS 5.5 or equivalent

Minimum age:

- 16

Length:

- 2 Academic Years (3 terms)
- We also offer entry from Year 12

Lessons:

- Average 7 hours per week for each A-level subject (plus homework and private study)

Learning outcomes

- Gain UK national university entrance qualification
- Raise English to university level
- Develop study skills required at degree level
- Develop specialist subject expertise

Course content and structure

The following syllabus outline is based on AQA exam board content.

The first year of the A level course provides a broad-based introduction to many of the fascinating topics in Sociology. In the second year, the course builds on prior learning and covers a range of new topics in depth for those wishing to further develop their interest and enjoyment in this exciting area of study.

Assessment is 100% examination (3 Papers) at the end of Year 2.

Year 1

Research methods

- The different ways that Sociologists study human behaviour based on their different perspectives of the relationship between society and the individuals living within it.
- Qualitative and quantitative data
- Practical, theoretical and ethical issues and their impact on research

Education

- The role of the education system in society today from different sociological perspectives (Functionalist, Marxist and Feminist)
- Differential achievement based on social class, gender and ethnicity – internal and external factors (material and cultural deprivation , labelling and inside school processes)
- Education and social policy – how government policy impacts on pupil experience in education

Families and households

- The role of the family in society today from different sociological perspectives (Functionalist, Marxist, Feminist and Post Modern perspectives)
- The family and social change (how the structure and role of the family and family members has changed over time for example changes in the nature and length of childhood)
- Families and social policy – how government policy impacts on family size and the roles of individual members
- Demography – how demographic changes have contributed to changes in the family (for example birth rates, death rates)

Year 2

Beliefs in Society

- The role of religion in society today from different sociological perspectives (Functionalist, Marxist, Feminist and Post Modern perspectives)

- Religious organisations – the characteristics and demographic make up of churches, denominations, sects and cults
- The relationship between social groups and religious belief and practice (gender, age, ethnicity and social class)
- The secularisation debate – the extent to which religious belief and practice are in decline
- The relationship between religion and science – are they compatible or competing ideologies

Crime and deviance

- Explanations for crime and deviance from different sociological perspectives (Functionalist, Marxist, Feminist, Interactionist and Post Modern perspectives)
- Reasons for different patterns for crime and deviance (in terms of gender, ethnicity, age and social class)
- Globalisation and crime, green crime and state crime – the impact of globalisation on the nature and extent of crime in society
- Crime prevention and punishment – evaluation and analysis of the effectiveness of crime prevention and punishment strategies

Theory and methods

- The arguments for and against the view that sociology can and should be viewed as a science (includes analysis of Positivism and Interpretivism)
- The extent to which sociological research should be objective and value free
- Consensus, conflict, structural and social action theories
- The concepts of modernity and post-modernity in relation to sociological theory

Typical A-level subject combinations with Sociology

Sociology A-level compliments a wide range of social science and humanities subjects. In addition, it will be highly beneficial for any career that involves an understanding of culture, such as education, social policy and law.

- Sociology, Politics and Geography
- Sociology, Politics and Economics
- Sociology, English Literature and Psychology

Sample enrichment activities

- Debating Society
- School newspaper
- Trinity Arts Awards
- Current Affairs and News Club

Sample academic calendar (2023-2024)

Year 1

Sept

6th: term starts
Student induction

Oct

23rd – 27th: half
term
Progress tests

Nov

University fairs and
talks

Dec

15th: term ends
End of term exams

Jan

8th: term starts

Feb

15th – 16th: half
term
Progress tests
University fairs

Mar

End of term exams
22nd: term ends

Apr

8th: term starts

May

Progress tests

June

Exams
14th: term ends

Year 2

Sept

9th: term starts

Oct

21st October – 1st
November: half term
15th October: UCAS
deadline (Medicine)
Progress tests

Nov

University fairs and
talks

Dec

13th: term ends
End of term exams

Jan

6th: term starts
15th January: UCAS
deadline (other
subjects)

Feb

13th – 14th: half
term
Progress tests

Mar

21st: term ends
Mock exams

Apr

7th: term starts
Progress tests

May

Final exams

June

13th June: term ends

Recommended reading

[The Guardian newspaper online](#)

[The Sociology Show podcast](#)

Degree progression

An A-level in Sociology provides an excellent background for careers in Law, journalism social work, teaching, consumer relations and many others.

Example degree courses which generally require or accept Sociology A-level include:

- Sociology
- International Relations
- Journalism
- Social Policy
- Law
- Politics
- Philosophy

Sample alumni progression

Doan Phuong Truc

- London School of Economics and Political Science
- Sociology

Ruwen Yang

- Durham University
- Anthropology and Sociology

Anindita Widyadari Batubara

- University of Warwick
- Sociology and Quantitative Methods

Anastasiya Turchyn

- University of Edinburgh
- Sociology

Cheuk Sze Lai

- University of York
- Sociology and Social Psychology