

Sociology A Level



Features of the Course:

- Learning about a variety of social issues such as education, family, health, work, poverty, crime, and deviance
- Study of sociological theory and the research methods used by sociologists
- Developing an awareness of socio-economic structures and how they impact different groups' experiences of social life
- Learning about research methods and recognising the importance of bias and ethics
- Considering the importance of diversity in contemporary society

A Level Units

Education

- Sociological explanations of the role and functions of the education system, including its relationship to the economy and to class structure
- Differential educational achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity in contemporary society
- Relationships and processes within schools including the organisation of teaching and learning
- Significance of educational policies – selection, marketisation and privatisation

Families and Households and Beliefs in Society

- The relationship of the family to the social structure and social change (economy and state policies)
- Changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation, divorce, childbearing and the life course
- Gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships within the family in contemporary society
- The nature of childhood, changes to the status of children in the family and society
- Demographic trends in the UK since 1900
- Ideology, science and religion; the relationship between social change and social stability
- The significance of religiosity in the contemporary world, including secularisation

Crime and Deviance

- Social order and control, the social distribution of crime and deviance by social group
- Globalisation and crime in contemporary society; the media and crime, human rights and state crime
- Crime control, surveillance, prevention, punishment, victims and the criminal justice system

Theory and Methods

- Quantitative and qualitative methods of research; research design
- Sources of data including questionnaires, interviews, participant and non-participant observation
- Distinctions between primary and secondary data
- Relationship between positivism, interpretivism and sociological methods; the nature of 'social facts'

Methods of Assessment:

This information is based on the AQA specification for A Level Sociology – 7192. There are 3 written exam papers:

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods

- 80 marks
- 2 hours
- 33.3% of total A Level

Paper 2: Topics in Sociology (Family and Households; Beliefs in Society)

- 80 marks
- 2 hours
- 33.3% of total A Level

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

- 80 marks
- 2 hours
- 33.3% of total A Level

