



# A-LEVEL SOCIOLOGY

**TOGETHER WE SUCCEED**  
ACHIEVEMENT ASPIRATION HIGH EXPECTATIONS COMMUNITY

# A-LEVEL SOCIOLOGY

## EXAM BOARD: AQA

### **Aims of the Course:**

- acquire knowledge and a critical understanding of contemporary social processes and structures
- appreciate the significance of theoretical and conceptual issues in sociological debate
- understand sociological methodology and a range of research methods
- reflect on their own experience of the social world in which they live
- develop skills which enhance their ability to participate more effectively in adult life

### **What's it all about?**

Sociology is the scientific study of human social relationships and institutions. Sociology's subject matter is diverse, ranging from crime to religion, from the divisions of race, gender and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture.

### **Programme of Study at A-Level:**

#### **Education with Theory and Methods (33.3% of A-Level)**

Students will have the opportunity to investigate areas of the Education system and how it helps shape our society, from the role and functions of the education system to the differential educational achievement of different social groups. Within this section students will also investigate relationships and processes within schools and identify the significance of educational policies and their impact on society.

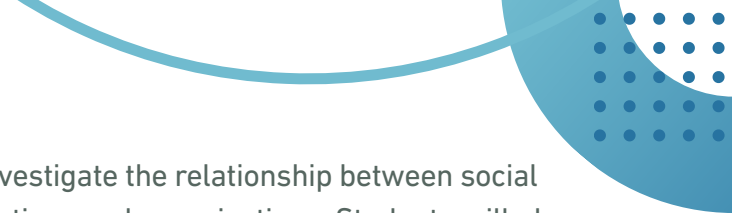
#### **Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods (33.3% of A Level)**

This topic encourages students to have theoretical debates while encouraging an active involvement with the research process. Students will look at the following areas of interest; crime, deviance, social order and social control. There will also be a focus on globalisation, the media and surveillance.

#### **Topics in Sociology: Beliefs in Society with Families and Households (33.3% of A Level)**

During the first part of this section students will get the opportunity to take an analytical look at one of the most important institutions within society, this being the family. This section of the course will investigate the relationship of the family to social structure and social change. It will also look at changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation and divorce, among others.

There is also a focus on demography investigating trends within the UK since 1900, these include; birth rates, death rates, family size, life expectancy, ageing population, and migration and globalisation. Students will also be expected to apply research methods to all aspects of the course.



Within the second part of this section students will investigate the relationship between social change and social stability, and religious beliefs, practices and organisations. Students will also look at religious organisations, including cults, sects, denominations, churches and New Age movements, and their relationship to religious and spiritual belief and practice. There will also be a focus on the significance of religion and religiosity in the contemporary world, including the nature and extent of secularisation.

**This course is for you if you** are motivated, driven and capable of working independently whilst receiving support from your teachers, in order to maximise your potential. This course is also for you if you like to take a critical and analytical view of society.

**This course will provide you** with a diverse skill set that are valued by higher educators and employers alike. This course is ideal if you are interested in going onto do a Sociology degree, or are interested in History, Journalism, Social Work or Law Enforcement.

**Minimum Entry Requirements:**

Five grade 9-5 GCSE passes including English and Maths. A grade 9-5 in a Humanities based subject.



# STEP-UP INDEPENDENT STUDY TASKS

These tasks are designed to develop a foundation knowledge of Sociological Theory, we will be starting to develop this knowledge within the lesson during your "Induction Day." You should develop an understanding of both Consensus and Conflict Theory whilst completing these tasks, and also start to develop the key skills you will need within Sociology, these being:

- Application (A02): Using Sociology in the real world and looking critically at the world around you.
- Analysis and Evaluation (A03): Comparing and contrasting different points of view and theory, whilst looking for strengths and weaknesses within others arguments.

## Task 1 - Sociological Theories

The purpose of this task is to help develop a foundation of knowledge of some of the key perspectives in Sociology. These include:

- Functionalism
- Feminism
- Marxism
- Social Action Theory
- Postmodernism

Using the link below access the booklet that will provide further guidance in completing this research task.

In order to have successfully completed this task you should have completed a summary of each Theory, outlining their views on society. This can be completed on the Tweet Sheets within the booklet or completed on a separate sheet.

Resources to help you can be found within the booklet:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Zs6Au0EMymyqxEUzM\\_Cfx%20n6uqznU\\_WUJ/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Zs6Au0EMymyqxEUzM_Cfx%20n6uqznU_WUJ/view?usp=sharing)

## Task 2

As part of the course you will have to write extended essays. Using the research that you have carried out and the summaries, write an essay outlining why sociology and the perspectives researched are important to society today.

Use the help sheet below to help you structure this essay:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1awRjc%20wk\\_Sq7rvSPAkEPm4rhmwUdutEN/vie%20w?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1awRjc%20wk_Sq7rvSPAkEPm4rhmwUdutEN/vie%20w?usp=sharing)

To be successful in completing this task you should submit a completed essay that includes points from each of the theories you have researched.

## TO DEEPEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING

What is Sociology: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TFdUtCAXAUM>

AQA A-Level Sociology Specification and Assessment Materials:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology>

Suggested Reading:

Animal Farm – George Orwell

The McDonaldization of Society – George Ritzer

CHAVS: The Demonization of the Work–Owen Jones

# COMPLETED TASK

|                 |  |       |  |
|-----------------|--|-------|--|
| Student Name    |  |       |  |
| Subject Teacher |  | Date: |  |
| Form Tutor:     |  | Date: |  |