

Sociology looks at different explanations for trends and patterns in the behaviour of social groups. It considers how factors such as class, age, gender and ethnicity may have an impact on the way that society operates and the influence of institutions such as the family, education, religion and crime.

AS Sociology



Image from www.sochloz.com

AS Sociology involves you applying skills you have learnt in English to write structured essays considering the relative effectiveness of different sociological theories to explaining how society operates. It also compliments other subjects such as Psychology, History, Philosophy and Ethics and Government and Politics as these involve analysing what is happening in the work around us.

What will I be expected to do?

Sociology lessons often involve looking at a particular social trend and finding out what research has been conducted in this area and analysing the different theories put forward by sociologists to explain the causes and impacts of the trend on the way that society operates.

You will be expected to keep an organised and comprehensive file of notes to demonstrate your learning in and out of lesson time. This file should be present in every lesson.

- ✓ You will be expected to contribute to small group and whole class discussions.
- ✓ You will be expected to complete extended written responses.
- ✓ You will be expected to question and challenge ideas in a respectful manner.
- ✓ You will be expected to complete written questions, conduct research, find out new information and spend time reflecting on your learning on a regular basis outside of lesson time.
- ✓ You will be expected to conduct your own independent wider reading and media exploration around the subject to support your learning outside of lesson time.
- ✓ You will be expected to be open minded and enthusiastic about developing your knowledge and understanding and be willing to challenge yourself.

How is my AS grade decided?

The AS course is externally examined through two written papers at the end of the academic year.

- Each paper is 1 hour 30 minutes
- Each paper is worth 60 marks
- Each paper will involve short response questions, data analysis and extended writing

TENSILE

Tensile /ten-syl/ adjective **1**
capable of being stretched.

What will I learn about in Sociology?

Paper 1 Education with Methods in Context

Education

What are the role and functions of the education system?
What are the patterns of educational achievement in relation to class, gender and ethnicity and what are the causes of these?
What are the processes that go on in schools that impact on educational achievement?
How significant is government policy in impacting on educational achievement?

Research Methods in Context

How have Sociologists studied education?
What have sociologists found in their research on education?
How useful is sociological research on education?

Paper 2 Research Methods and Topics in Sociology

Research Methods

What are the different research methods used by Sociologists?
What are the different types of data used by Sociologists?
What practical and theoretical factors influence Sociological research?
What ethical guidelines govern Sociological research?

Families and Households

What are the different family and household types that exist in society today?
How have family structures changed over time?
What is the relationship between government policies and the family?
How have gender roles in the family changed over time?
How and why have demographic trends such as birth rate and death rate changed over time?
What impact has globalisation had on the family?



Explain some of the reasons why females tend to get better GCSE grades than males.

Why is there a difference in the educational performance of different ethnic groups?