



# ***SOCIOLOGY***

**Gordon's  
Sixth Form**

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**A LEVEL**

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## Where will A-level Sociology take you?

Sociology is a great choice of subject for people who want a career in social work, nursing or medicine. But the subject is also useful in a number of other careers, like marketing, advertising, PR, journalism, law or teaching.

## Assessment

At A-level there are three exams, each account for one third of your A-level grade. We study the AQA specification.

The three exams last 2 hours and are worth 80 marks each.

The exams consist of a mixture of short answer and extended writing questions.

## Possible degree options

According to [bestcourse4me.com](http://bestcourse4me.com), the top six degree courses taken by students who have an A-level in sociology are:

- Sociology
- Psychology
- English studies
- Business studies
- Law
- Teaching



<b>Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods</b>	+	<b>Paper 2: Topics in Sociology</b>	+	<b>Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods</b>
<b>What's assessed</b> Compulsory content 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3		<b>What's assessed</b> Section A: one from option 1: 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.3 or 4.2.4 Section B: one from option 2: 4.2.5, 4.2.6, 4.2.7 or 4.2.8		<b>What's assessed</b> Compulsory content 4.3.1, 4.3.2
<b>Assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 hour written exam</li><li>• 80 marks</li><li>• 33.3% of A-level</li></ul>		<b>Assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 hour written exam</li><li>• 80 marks</li><li>• 33.3% of A-level</li></ul>		<b>Assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 hour written exam</li><li>• 80 marks</li><li>• 33.3% of A-level</li></ul>
<b>Questions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Education: short answer and extended writing, 50 marks</li><li>• Methods in Context: extended writing, 20 marks</li><li>• Theory and Methods: extended writing, 10 marks</li></ul>		<b>Questions</b> Section A: extended writing, 40 marks Section B: extended writing, 40 marks		<b>Questions</b> Crime and Deviance: short answer and extended writing, 50 marks Theory and Methods: extended writing, 30 marks



### What skills will I learn?

Our A-level Sociology will help you develop a range of skills that will benefit you, whether you decide to go on to further study or the working world, including:

- The use of evidence to support your arguments
- How to investigate facts and use deduction
- Critical thinking
- Making reasoned arguments
- Developing opinions and new ideas on societal issues
- The ability to analyse and better understand societal issues

### How will it fit in with my other subjects?

There's no limit to the other subjects that you can take alongside sociology. There's such breadth to the subject that it will complement just about anything. Students who study sociology often also study psychology, English and media studies. But students, who want a career in any of the caring services, or in marketing or business, will find an understanding of sociology useful.

### Quotes:

*"Sociology examines a wide variety of topics which can be taken forward and applied in a number of different careers. I found the subject of society and work to be really interesting and decided I wanted to pursue an HR related career. My background in sociology has given me transferable skills, particularly with the analysis of information. This helps me understand the requirements of a diverse range of businesses and to be creative in finding solutions for their staffing needs."*  
Alex, Senior Project Manager working for a recruitment solutions provider.

*"Studying sociology gave me a good foundation from which to improve and undertake further learning in my training to be a Probation Officer. Understanding how individuals have become involved in crime, as well as how systems and society as a whole respond to individuals who fail to abide by the law, has helped me to tailor my methods of working with offenders in order to successfully to rehabilitate and reintegrate them into society".*  
Kirsty, Probation Officer

# SOCIOLOGY

## HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Mrs G Bilkhu

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### Exam Board

AQA

### Specification

7192

## COURSE DETAILS

Sociology is the study of human behaviour in groups in our society. It highlights how invisible forces can affect individuals' life chances and introduces core themes such as conflict, power, and identity.

### Examination

The course is examined as a whole at the end of Year 13.

### Unit 1: Education and Research Methods

Students will study the role and functions of the education system, differential achievement by social groups as well as the impact of educational policies. Students will also study sociological research methods and must be able to apply these to a range of issues.

### Unit 2: Topics in Sociology

Students will study the topics of families and household and beliefs in society. The study of these topics will engage students in theoretical debate and will also foster a critical awareness of contemporary social processes and change.

### Unit 3: Crime and Deviance

Students will study the topic of crime and deviance which will include the social distribution of crime, crime control and punishment. Students will also need to be actively aware of the role of research methods and the processes involved.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Exam Papers	% of GCE	Details
<b>Paper 1:</b> Education with theory and methods	<b>33.3%</b>	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of sociological theories, concepts and evidence and sociological research methods and be able to apply these to a range of issues. Students are also assessed on their ability to analyse and evaluate sociological theories, concepts, evidence and research methods in order to present arguments, make judgements, draw conclusions as applied to the topic of Education.
<b>Paper 2:</b> Topics in Sociology	<b>33.3%</b>	Students are assessed on their ability to analyse and evaluate sociological theories, concepts, evidence and research methods in order to present arguments, make judgements, draw conclusions as applied to the topic of Families and Households and Beliefs in Society.
<b>Paper 3:</b> Crime and deviance with theory and methods	<b>33.3%</b>	Students are assessed on their ability to analyse and evaluate sociological theories, concepts, evidence and research methods in order to present arguments, make judgements, draw conclusions as applied to the topic of crime and deviance. Students must also be able to apply the use of research methods to the topic and show understanding of the processes involved when carrying out research.

## WIDER READING

- Wills, P (2016) Learning to Labour: How working class kids get working class jobs. Routledge: Abingdon.
- Dorling, D (2015) Inequality and the 1%. Versobooks: London.
- Venkatesh, S (2008) Gang leader for a day: a Rogue sociologist takes to the streets. Penguin Press: Chicago
- Carolyn Jackson 'Lads and Ladettes
- Chavs: The Demonisation of the Working Class, Owen Jones (2011)
- Margaret Atwood – Handmaid's Tale A handmaid is what we now call a surrogate and in a position of servitude in a society where women are not educated. Gender, education, inequality
- George Orwell – Animal Farm Marxian theory with farm animals!
- Robert Heinlein – Stranger in a Strange Land A look into our society from an outsider's perspective, including norms, mores, culture, prejudice, social order







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