



An introduction to AQA A Level Sociology!

WHAT IS SOCIOLOGY?

Sociology is the **study of people in society**. We investigate **how society affects people** and how **people affect the society they live in**.

THE SPECIFICATION

- [AS and A-level Sociology Specifications for first teaching in 2015 \(aqa.org.uk\)](http://aqa.org.uk)

WHAT TOPICS WILL I BE STUDYING?

Year 12:

Families and Households

Education and Research Methods

Year 13:

Crime and Deviance with Theory and methods

Beliefs in Society.

We will look at each topic using different perspectives including Feminism, Marxism, Functionalism and Postmodernism.

WHAT DO WE FIND OUT IN EACH TOPIC?

Education and Research Methods

- The purpose of education
- Who underachieve in education and why
- The history of education in the UK
- How to conduct research in Sociology

WHAT DO WE FIND OUT IN EACH TOPIC?

Families and Households:

- How families are changing
- The purpose of families and households
- The 'dark side' of the family
- The history of childhood

WHAT DO WE FIND OUT IN EACH TOPIC?

Crime and Deviance

- Green crimes and state crimes
- Why people commit crime
- How victims of crime feel
- How to research crime and criminals

WHAT DO WE FIND OUT IN EACH TOPIC?

Beliefs in Society

- How science and religion differ
- Why people are religious
- Who is likely to be religious
- Whether people are becoming less religious

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

You will develop skills of **critical analysis** and **evaluation** which are crucial for university study. You will also develop your **essay writing skills** and your ability to **construct an argument**.

You will be required to conduct sociological research and to analyse this, drawing conclusions. Don't worry though, you'll be taught how!

You will **discuss, debate and present**, strengthening your verbal reasoning skills, and developing confidence; all part of preparation for the worlds of university and work.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You'll take three exams in May/June of year 13, each of two hours in length and involving a variety of questions from 2 marks up to 30 mark essays. There is no coursework.

You can find information on the AQA exam specification [here](#) and you can find past exam papers [here](#) so that you can get an idea of what the exams will look like.

WHAT WILL I NEED TO BRING TO LESSONS?

You will need a lever arch file for each topic and A4 notepad, some file dividers, coloured pens, a highlighter and a revision guide for **AQA** exam board.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO PREPARE FOR NEXT YEAR?

You have three important tasks to complete **before** I see you in September:

- Start watching the news **every night**. Be aware of what is happening in society and the wider world.
- Complete the summer tasks set for you on the school website
- Find out what functionalism, Marxism, feminism and Social Action Theory are and why they are relevant to sociology.

CAREERS

Sociology is a very useful subject for a variety of careers including:

- Social research
- Civil service
- Journalism
- Politics
- Teaching/ lecturing
- Social work
- Criminology / policing

Find out more about careers in sociology here:

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/sociology>

<https://www.britsoc.co.uk/what-is-sociology/sociologist-careers/>

BEYOND THE CURRICULUM

Possible extra curricular trips could include a trip to London to explore various attractions such as the Jack the Ripper museum and the Clink prison to unpick human behaviour and the criminal mind.

