



# SOCIOLOGY

**Entry Requirement:** Grade 7 in GCSE English Language

**Examination Board:** OCR H580

## Course Content and Assessment

As we study it at this level, Sociology is about the relationship between the individual and society and we study ideas like social class, gender, race and ethnicity, age, the family, crime and social inequality and difference. You have probably already studied something that is sociological, but it was not called 'Sociology'. Understanding what underlies everyday life is one of the aims of Sociology.

The course at A-Level is 100% examination assessed.

Paper 1: Socialisation, Culture and Identity (30% of A Level, 1 hour 30 mins examination.)

- Family

Paper 2: Researching and Understanding Social Inequalities. (35% of A Level, 2 hours 15 mins. Examination)

- Research Methods
- Inequality

Paper 3: Debates in Contemporary Society. (35% of A Level, 2 hours 15 mins. Examination)

- Crime & Deviance / Education / Religion (One topic will be selected by teaching staff to study)

## Teaching and Learning Methods

Much emphasis is placed on what is happening in society today, so you will find you are given many newspaper articles and encouraged to listen to news and read selected newspapers for yourself.

Wherever possible, active learning methods are used and you are given an opportunity to undertake some small scale research for yourself.

As Sociology is an academic subject, you should not consider doing it unless you are prepared to do some reading and learn from academic texts which use some technical vocabulary.

## Homework

Homework is a natural extension of what we do in class and it will often consist of review and consolidation of class work, reading or learning or going out to find out something.

## **Complementary Subjects**

Sociology combines well with arts or science subjects because it is a 'social science'. Students have done well in Sociology when they have studied subjects like English, Theatre Studies, Languages, Geography, History, Human Biology, Biology, Art, Product Design, Philosophy and Ethics, Economics and Business Studies. Psychology is often successfully combined with Sociology as there is some common ground (e.g. the socialisation process).

## **Trips and Visits**

Sociology conferences are held every year in central London and attract students from all over the country. If these fit with our specification, visits are arranged.

## **Materials**

Students buy one text book and have access to an electric range of texts through the LRC. A daily newspaper is also available and 'Sociology Review' is available electronically for all students.

## **Key Features of Sociology**

- Academic, demanding
- Illuminates processes of everyday life
- Cross-curricular themes
- Exam assessment
- Opens a range of opportunities at university level and beyond
- Good for careers in media, health, education, business, marketing, the arts

Final comment: 'You learn a lot of things you wanted to know in Sociology, as well as some things you hoped never to know!'