

Year
12

Sociology - A Level

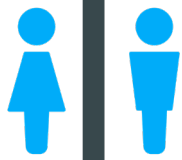
Following the AQA specification, we study two core themes: socialisation, culture, and identity, as well as social differentiation, power, and stratification. These two core themes are related to the topics of Families and Households, Education, and Research Methods, Crime and Deviance, Beliefs and Theoretical Debates.

META THINKING

Strategy planning
Connecting existing knowledge to new

An introduction to key concepts and theories in sociology

Paper 1: Education with research methods



Factors inside/outside of school influencing gender and attainment

Factors inside/ outside of school influencing ethnicity and attainment

Factors inside/outside of school influencing social class and attainment

Intellectual confidence – using existing knowledge of social class to explain patterns by ethnicity

Role of education in society
As part of this topic, students will study: Feminism, Functionalism, Marxism, New Right and Postmodernism. They will also look at the role and functions of the education system, including its relationship to the economy and to class structure.

CREATING

Originality - The ability to conceive something new designing and creating research skills, and assessing the usefulness of individual methods.

Social Policy on education

Studying the significance of educational policies, including policies of selection, marketisation and privatisation, and policies to achieve greater equality of opportunity or outcome.

Abstraction

Using complex concepts to explain sociological theories

Depth Study

Students will undertake a depth study on the following research methods:

- Experiments
- Observation
- Secondary Source
- Questionnaires
- Interviews

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Paper 2: Families and households



Couples - Domestic labour and domestic violence

Studying gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships within the family in contemporary society

Meta-cognition

Using skills gained in previous topics to use sociological evidence effectively



Demography

Researching demographic trends in the United Kingdom since 1900: birth rates, death rates, family size, life expectancy, ageing population, and migration and globalisation.



Childhood

The nature of childhood, and changes in the status of children in the family and society

Patterns of marriage, divorce and childbearing

Changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation, divorce, childbearing and the life course, including the sociology of personal life

Fluent thinking

The ability to generate innovative ideas regarding trends in the population



Family diversity

As part of this topic, students will study the diversity of contemporary family and household structures

Seeing alternative perspectives

which apply to increasing family diversity



Social Policy on the family

The relationship of the family to the social structure and social change, with particular reference to the economy and to state policies

Pre-public examinations

REALISING

The ability to work at speed and with accuracy



Primary research

In preparation for Year 13, students will complete a piece of primary research on criminal behaviour by conducting a self-report study, using skills learnt throughout their first year

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Evolutionary or revolutionary thinking

Using gained skills and knowledge to complete research on criminal behaviour in preparation for Crime topic.



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Paper 3: Crime with Theory and Methods

META THINKING

Self-regulation the ability monitor, evaluate and self-correct perceptions of different theoretical views on criminal behaviour.

Sociological explanations of criminal behaviour:

- Functionalist theory
- Strain theory
- Subcultural theory
- Labelling theory
- Marxist theory
- Neo-Marxist theory
- Realist theory

Patterns of offending and victimisation by ethnic groups

The social distribution of crime and deviance by ethnicity including recent patterns and trends in crime

Media and crime

Studying the lack of correlation between media and criminal actions.

Flexible thinking

Recognise how theories on female criminality can be bent to apply to new evidence.

Patterns of offending and victimisation by gender

Globalisation and criminal behaviour

Globalisation and crime in contemporary society; ; green crime; human rights and state crimes

Intellectual confidence

– Articulating views on globalization based on evidence

Crime prevention and punishment

Crime control, surveillance, prevention and punishment, victims, and the role of the criminal justice system and other agencies.

Connection finding

Students will see interlinks between various aspects of the crime course

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Paper 2: Beliefs in Society

Theories on the role of religion in society

Ideology, science and religion, including both Christian and non-Christian religious traditions



Strategy planning

Students will approach new theories on beliefs by connecting to previous knowledge



ANALYSING



Critical and logical thinking

Seeking evidence to explain the role of religion in society.

Religion as a conservative force

The relationship between social change and social stability, and religious beliefs, practices and organisations

Pre-public examinations

Secularisation debate

The significance of religion and religiosity in the contemporary world, including the nature and extent of secularisation in a global context, and globalisation and the spread of religions.



Fluent thinking

The ability to generate innovative ideas on the renewal of religiosity



Religious revival

Religious organisations, including cults, sects, denominations, churches and New Age movements, and their relationship to religious and spiritual belief and practice

REALISING



Automaticity

Students will demonstrate their ability to use sociological skills with ease.

Religiosity and religious organisation

The relationship between different social groups and religious/spiritual organisations and movements, beliefs and practices



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Big picture thinking

Working with big ideas such as age, ethnicity, gender, and social class



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Paper 3: Crime with Theory and Methods

Precision
The ability to effectively work within the domains of positivism and interpretivism



Value freedom and value laden
Debates about subjectivity, objectivity and value freedom

Positivism vs Interpretivism
The relationship between positivism, interpretivism and sociological methods; the nature of 'social facts'

REALISING
Working with **speed and accuracy** with concepts linking to positivism and interpretivism.



Impact of sociology on social policy

ANALYSING
Critical and logical thinking
Considering the impact of sociology on governmental policies.

The usefulness of sociological theory
The relationship between theory and methods

Sociology as a science
The nature of science and the extent to which Sociology can be regarded as scientific



Key
The ability to work at speed and with accuracy



A level exams
At the end of Year 13, pupils are assessed with three written exams:
1. Education with theory and methods
2. Families and Households, Beliefs in Society
3. Crime with theory and methods

Connection finding
Students will use connections between methodology and theoretical positions in sociological perspectives.