

# A-LEVEL SOCIOLOGY

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## WHY STUDY SOCIOLOGY AT A-LEVEL?

Sociology is the study of human society and social groups. It is a subject well suited to students with an enquiring mind who want to learn more about the world around them. Sociology students learn about a diverse array of topics, ranging from crime and the family to the education system and media. They also consider social inequality and how factors such as class, gender, ethnicity and age impact on people's experiences.

Sociology is a social science and has features in common with both science and humanities subjects, thus acting as a perfect complement to a wide range of courses. It is a subject in which you will enhance a wide range of skills - including your verbal and written communication, critical thinking and ability to construct an argument - making it ideal for many future academic courses and career paths

## TOPICS STUDIED

### YEAR 12

TOPICS STUDIED: Education – examines the role and functions of the education system and its impact on society. Families and Households – examines the impact of the family on society, its evolution over time and power relationships within the family. Research methods – examines how to evaluate different types of sociological research.

### YEAR 13

TOPICS STUDIED: Crime and Deviance – examines patterns, causes and solutions to crime and deviance. Media – examines the role and influence of the media in society. Sociological theory – examines theoretical perspectives and wider debates within the study of sociology in detail. All topics studied at AS will also be assessed at A-Level.

## ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Content taught during Year 12 will be externally assessed via three written papers at the end of Year 13.

### 100% written exam

- Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods (2 hours, 33.3% A Level)
- Paper 2: Families & Households and Media: (2 hours, 33.3% A Level)
- Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods: (2 hours, 33.3% A Level)



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## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 in GCSE English (Language/Literature)

Grade 5 in a humanities subject (geography/history/religious education)

## CAREER PATHWAY

A-Level Sociology is a course that covers topics and skills that are relevant to many different career options e.g. social work, research, teaching and journalism. People who study Sociology will gain a range of very valuable skills that will give you a variety of future career options. You will learn how to work independently. You will learn how to find information, extract what is important from it and turn it into an argument. You will learn to think critically and analyse arguments. It will give you the ability to think clearly and deliver a viewpoint coherently. Employers agree sociology students have skills that make them very valuable in the workplace.

## IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?

This course is suitable for people who are intrigued by the behaviour of others. It allows you to study key theories and ideas on why society functions the way it does and challenge these ideas with your own. Sociology is an academic subject which is constantly being updated as new theories and ideas are accepted. This subject would suit students who are excited by thinking through their own ideas and debating key ideas in society with others.

## NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Please contact Mr S Brookes (Head of Sixth Form): [sbrookes@lighthall.co.uk](mailto:sbrookes@lighthall.co.uk)

### READING LIST:

- The McDonaldisation of Society. George Ritzer.
  - Chavs. Owen Jones.
  - The Spirit Level. Wilkinson and Pickett.
  - Criminology: The Basics. Sandra Walklate.
  - Living Dolls. Natasha Walter.
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