

<http://www.sociology.org.uk/rload.htm>



## What is GCSE Sociology all about?

Sociology is about developing an understanding of society and human behaviour. Sociologists study society by asking questions and conducting research. It is an engaging subject that is relevant to your life now & in the future. It will interest students who enjoy 'contemporary history' because you have to study the very recent past as well current day society. You will study crime, education, power, and the family. Sociology is at the root of every business, every campaign, every news story and every political movement, It is therefore a fascinating and extremely useful subject.

## What topics will I cover?

- ⇒ **Social Stratification** (Who has the power in society? Who are the underclass? How do the rich and powerful impact society?)
- ⇒ **Crime and deviance** (Why do men commit more crime than women? Do prisons work? Why has there been a rise in gangs? What are the causes of crime? Do governments commit crime? Does prison work?)
- ⇒ **Family** (Why do men and women behave differently in families? Who has the power in families? Why are some families dysfunctional? Who is most likely to be a victim of domestic violence? Why? Has childhood changed?)
- ⇒ **Education** (What are educational subcultures and why do some ethnic groups do better than others at school? Do teachers discriminate against some groups of students? What is the hidden curriculum?)

In both years 10 & 11 you will study Sociological theory and methods. This includes:

- ⇒ **Approaches to sociological research and research methods**
- ⇒ **Key Classical Sociologists—Durkheim, Parsons, Marx & Weber**
- ⇒ **Marxism, Functionalism, Feminism, Interactionism, the New Right**

## How am I assessed?

Two exam papers at the end of year 11:

Paper 1—Family, Education, theory & methods (1 hr & 45 mins)

Paper 2—Crime, Social Stratification, theory & methods (1 hr & 45 mins)

## What examination board will I follow?

AQA

## Is there any additional information about this course?

Sociology will allow you to study a wide variety of areas. Every element of life, from Facebook to video games to music to crime to poverty is a part of sociology. There are always new and exciting areas to be explored and researched. The social around us is constantly changing and is, therefore, never dull.

#### Further Study:

GCSE Sociology is an academic subject that is excellent preparation for A Levels or University level study in any of the social sciences (business studies, psychology etc...) or humanities (history, geography, religious studies). It will involve some statistic analysis so will also be of interest to students whose talents lie more the maths and sciences. Not many schools offer GCSE sociology so if you choose to take the subject at A Level, you will be at an advantage.

#### Careers:

People who study sociology go on into a wide variety of jobs. You will gain a range of very valuable skills. 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. Your memory skills will improve and you will become more confident in your abilities to explain your viewpoint. These are all skills that are valuable in the workplace. Jobs where a knowledge of sociology is helpful include

- Market research, business based jobs
- Journalism
- Law, the probation service, the police, victim support
- Local Government, politics, policy advisor
- Teaching, education, counselling, working with children
- Statistician
- Working within the health service, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, social work

### **Who should I speak to for further information?**

Miss Cosgrove

