

# A-Level Sociology

Exam board: OCR

## What does the course cover?

During this course you will learn to consider how individuals are socialised, controlled and constrained by a number of institutions including the family, the mass media, the education system and many more.

The A-Level is broken down into the following three units.

### Unit 1.1 – Introducing Socialisation, Culture and Identity

In this unit you will look at how cultures are formed, and how they change over time.

- These include high culture, popular culture and cultural diversity.
- The process of socialisation, which includes the nature versus nurture debate, feral children, primary and secondary socialisation.
- How agents of socialisation shape our identities. These include the family, mass media, religion and education.
- The creation and reinforcement of gender, age, sexuality, disability, nationality, class and ethnicity identities.

### Unit 1.2 – Youth Subcultures

In this section you will study:

- The socialisation process and identity within peer groups.
- Youth subcultures and roles in society.
- How and why youth subcultures are formed
- Consider theoretical views such as Marxism, Feminism and Post-Modernism.
- Subcultures in relation to class, gender and ethnicity hybridity.
- Why do young people participate in deviant subcultures, including spectator youth, gangs, anti-school and delinquent subcultures?

### Unit 2.1 - Research Methods

In this section you will study:

- A range of methods and sources of data and the factors influencing the design of sociological research
- The relationship between theory and methods.
- The practical, ethical and theoretical issues arising in sociological research.

### Unit 2.2 - Understanding social inequalities

In this section you will study:

- Examine patterns and trends in social inequality in relation to social class and gender.
- Investigate the main sociological explanations.

### Unit 3.1 – Globalisation and the Digital Social World

In this section you will study:

- Factors affecting social change in the modern world
- The relationship between globalisation and digital forms of communication, including social media, convergence and the digital revolution.
- The impact of digital forms of communication on individual identity, social inequality and culture.

### Unit 3.2. - Crime and Deviance

In this section you will study:

- A detailed study of crime and deviance
- The social construction of crime and deviance
- Patterns and trends of crime and deviance in a global setting
- Social distribution of offending and victimisation, in terms of class, gender and age.
- Theoretical explanations of crime and deviance
- Solutions to the problem of crime and deviance

## What skills will the course help you develop?

Studying Sociology will help you develop an understanding of the complexities of modern society. During the course you will develop research, communication, analytical and interpersonal skills. As well as this, you will develop a broad understanding of social problems and critically assess the policies and provision put in place to reduce these problems.

## How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed through exams only, using a mixture of short and long essays. There are three exams at the end of Year 13 (one 1 hour 30 minutes and two 2 hours and 15 minutes).

## What do students who study this course go on to do?

Sociology is a subject that is suitable preparation for a wide range of university degree courses and employment opportunities. It may lend itself to future study of criminology, the law and work within the media or in social inequality.

## What are the entry requirements?

At least 5 A\*-C in GCSE, including English, preferably at a grade B or above. A GCSE in Sociology is useful, but not necessary.

## Who is the staff contact for Sociology?

Mrs Wilson

