

Overview

GCSE Sociology aims to broaden students' minds, helping them to see their world from different perspectives and in new and thought-provoking ways. Sociology helps students to gain knowledge and understanding of key social structures, processes and issues through the study of families, education, crime and deviance and social stratification. Students will develop their analytical, assimilation and communication skills by comparing and contrasting perspectives on a variety of social issues, constructing reasoned arguments, making substantiated judgements and drawing reasoned conclusions. By studying sociology, students will develop transferable skills including how to investigate facts and make deductions; develop opinions and new ideas on social issues; analyse and better understand the social world.

Content

There are four main topics covered over two papers;

- Paper 1: Families and Education
- Paper 2: Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification

Throughout all of the topics, we study sociological research methods and you will also carry out your own research studies as part of this.

Assessment

Exam board: AQA

For this GCSE, there are two examination units – each worth 50% of the final grade.

Both exams are 1hr 45min long. They include multiple choice questions, item based questions, a range of low and high mark questions, and three 12 mark essays on each paper.

Additional Information

Sociology GCSE is good preparation for A-Level Sociology but isn't compulsory. Sociology is about studying society so is useful for most careers, as many jobs involve working with people. It relates particularly well to the fields of health, education, policing, law, marketing and human resources. Sociology helps students to develop a range of skills from improving their understanding of complex social structures, empirical investigation and constructing balanced arguments, as well strengthening their analytical and research skills. The course suits students who like to debate issues, and to look at things from different perspectives as sociologists do. It is essential that students who study GCSE Sociology have a good grasp of English writing skills due to the nature of the examination.