

What is Sociology?

"We do not see things as they are, we see things as we are."
- Anais Nin

Sociology is about having the confidence to question and uncover truths about the society you live in.



Sociology is the science of society.

In lessons you will study:

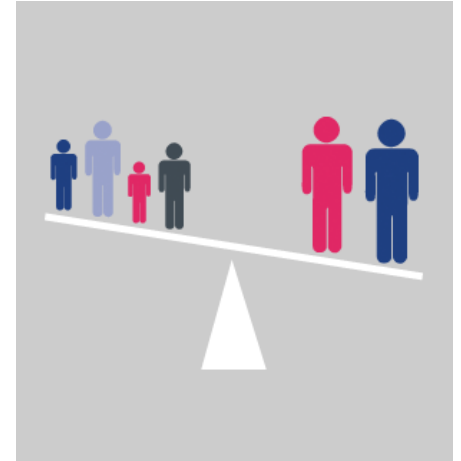
- the influences on our behaviour
- how different people live
- how our society works
- how society can affect the way that we think and act
- differences and similarities between our own and others cultures
- how society evolves
- trends in social inequalities
- explanations of inequalities
- how inequalities are being addressed
- how inequalities should/could be addressed

Who is suited to Sociology?



Students interested in:

- the creation of our identities
- way our society works
- issues of equality & justice
- understanding social behaviour



Skills developed through the course

- The ability to discuss and debate effectively
- Critical thinking and evaluation skills
- The ability to interpret trends and apply ideas about social issues



What are the overlaps between Sociology and other subjects?

- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- History
- English
- Geography
- Business Studies
- Politics

AQA Sociology

What will students learn about?

Unit 1 (Paper 1):

1. The Sociology of Families
2. The Sociology of Education

Unit 2 (Paper 2):

1. The Sociology of Crime and Deviance
2. The Sociology of social stratification (issues of inequality relating to social class, ethnicity, gender, age and disability in modern Britain)

Family



- Functions of the family
- Family forms & diversity
- Marriage & divorce
- Conjugal role relationships
- Changing relationships within the family
- Criticisms of family

Education



- Roles and functions of education
- The relationship between education and capitalism
- Educational achievement according to class, gender and ethnicity
- Structure of the education system, marketisation & competition between schools, parental choice
- Processes within schools – setting, streaming, subcultures, teacher expectations, labelling etc.

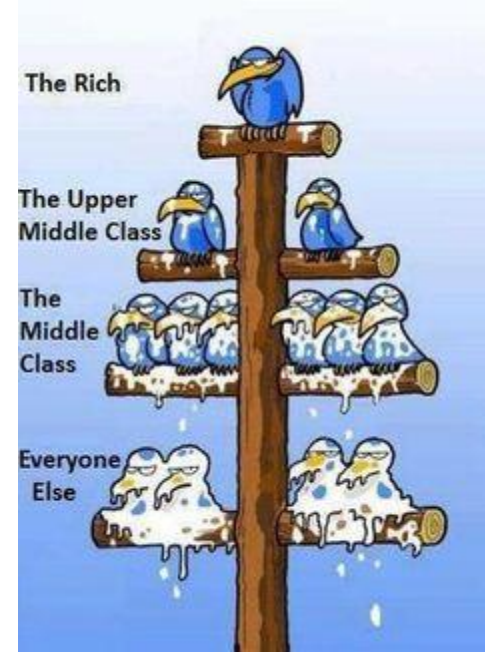
Crime & Deviance



- The social construction of crime and deviance
- Social control through the criminal justice system
- Patterns & trends of criminal and deviant behaviour according to class, gender, ethnicity and age
- Data on crime – how useful this is and the dark figure of crime
- Explanations of crime and crime statistics
- Solutions to the problems of crime

Social stratification

- Theories of stratification
- Socio-economic class - measures & perspectives
- Life chances and perspectives on these with reference to social class, gender, race and ethnicity, sexuality, age, disability, religion & belief
- Poverty as a social issue
- Power and authority
- Power relationships & perspectives on these according to social class, gender, sexuality, race, age, disability, religion & beliefs



Assessments

- 2 Exam papers. Each 1 hour 45 minutes
- Short answer questions, some based on source material.
- Each section includes two 12 mark responses.

Related careers

- Charity work & International aid/development worker
- Community development worker
- Education, teaching, lecturing
- Counsellor
- Probation officer
- Social worker
- Youth worker
- Government research officer
- Law & politics
- Police
- Criminology
- Social policy planning
- Advertising
- Marketing
- Human resources
- Journalism
- Public relations



