

Sociology A-level

Exam board: AQA

Where do I start?

You must meet the minimum entry requirements of Wootton Park VI. In addition, you then also need at least a **Grade 6 in English, and Grade 5 in Maths.**

Sociology – about the subject:

Studying Sociology offers insights into social and cultural issues. It helps you develop a multi-perspective and critical approach to understanding issues around culture, identity, religion, crime, families and social power. More than once during the course you're bound to ask yourself the question 'why has society developed like this? with poverty, ignorance, crime and injustice.' It will help you make sense of the society we live in and understand the cultural and identity issues which affect us all.

You will learn a number of skills including the use of evidence to support your arguments, how to investigate facts, and critical thinking. It is relevant to the society you live in so you are bound to enjoy learning about topics that are relevant to everyday life; plus it opens the door to a fantastic range of interesting careers.

During the first year, you will consider the role of education in society. For example; you'll look into gender and ethnicity differences in school achievement. You'll also learn how to apply your own sociological research methods to the study of education. You will learn how to conduct your own sociological research, from interviews to reviewing documents and official statistics.

In the second year, you'll broaden your understanding of society. You'll learn about criminal and deviant behaviour, including factors that might lead a person to follow this path in life and how the media portrays them.

What type of learner chooses Sociology?

Sociology is a fascinating and varied subject and will interest anyone who has ever wondered why people behave in the way they do. It is an academically challenging course and is seen as very

good preparation for any degree or career. Many learners may choose to study Sociology to degree level and beyond. You will develop a range of skills that will benefit you, including the use of evidence to support your arguments, how to investigate facts and use deduction, critical thinking, making reasoned arguments, developing opinions and new ideas on societal issues, as well as the ability to analyse and better understand societal issues.

What aspects of the subject will I be studying?

First year of A level

- Education and Methods in Context
- Research Methods
- Health

Second Year of A level

- Crime and Deviance
- Theory and Methods
- Beliefs in Society

How will I be assessed?

There are three exams, each account for one third of the course. The three exams last 2 hours and are worth 80 marks each. The exams consist of a mixture of short answer and extended writing questions.

What are the career/higher education prospects?

Popular career paths include:

- Social work
- Human resources
- Advertising
- Policing
- Marketing
- Journalism
- Law
- Teaching

