

Type of course – A Level

Course Overview

Sociology is the study of human social relationships and institutions. Sociology's subject matter is diverse, ranging from crime and religion. From family to the state. Sociology is an exciting and illuminating field of study that analyses and explains important matters in our personal lives, our communities, and the world. At the personal level, sociology investigates the social causes and consequences of such things as romantic love, racial gender identity, family conflict, and religious faith. At the societal level, sociology examines and explains matters like crime and law, schools and education, and social movements. At the global level, sociology studies such phenomena as population growth and migration, war and peace, and economic development.

Students who have been well trained in sociology know how to think critically about human social life, and how to ask important research questions. They know how to design social research projects, carefully collect and analyse empirical data, and formulate and present their findings. Most generally, they think, evaluate and communicate clearly, creatively, and effectively. These are all abilities of tremendous value in a wide variety of vocational callings and professions.

Course Content

Education with Research Methods:

- Why different social groups do better in the education system – class, gender, and ethnicity.
- The relationships within schools between teachers and pupils and pupil subcultures.

- Research methods: questionnaires, interviews, and observations.

Families and Households:

- The changing patterns of the family – the rise of divorce, cohabitation, and family diversity.
- Are roles within families equal – domestic violence, housework and decision making.
- How is childhood changing? Is it improving? Is it disappearing?

Beliefs:

- The increase in sects, cults, and new age movements.
- Why are some groups more religious than others – age, gender, and ethnicity.
- Is religion increasing or decreasing in contemporary society.

Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods:

- What is crime and how is it defined?
- Why are certain groups more likely to commit crime – class, age, gender, and ethnicity.
- What is meant by green crime and human rights crime, and why does it occur?
- Who is likely to be a victim of crime and how do we punish offenders?
- Is sociology science?
- How does sociology link to social policy?

Assessment

No coursework

Paper 1: Education with theory and methods

- Written exam: 2 hours

Paper 2: Topics in sociology (families and beliefs)

- Written exam: 2 hours

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and methods.

- Written exam: 2 hours

Careers and Opportunities for Further Study

Studying sociology will open doors for further study, but direct employment opportunities include:

- Teaching
- Criminal justice system
- Probation, youth offending
- Prisons
- Social services
- Child services
- Researchers for government bodies
- Media

Entry Requirements

English language grade 6