



Sociology

A Level

“It’s all just common sense, isn’t it?” – How do we make common sense knowledge? – Garfinkel Sociology in fact is far from common sense, it is trying to explain how society operates, answering the original Hobbesian question: “Why do we co-exist and not all kill each other?” Sociologists question: Why do girls get better GCSE grades than boys? Is religion on the decline? Why is Islam the fastest growing religion? How can we prevent crime occurring?; We use sociological theory which is rooted in social philosophy to try and explain social phenomena. This can be from a top-down perspective; where individuals are influenced by social institutions such as Education or the Family, or from a bottom up approach; where the interactions between individuals affect how people behave. Sociologists also use various research methods to produce epistemological evidence to prove their explanations as to why social phenomena occur. We critically evaluate these and also have an opportunity to practise carrying out our own research.

Sociology is a rigorous, academic subject that provides A level and Degree level students with critical thinking, evaluation and verbal and written communication skills. Many businesses, public services and further educational establishments actively recruit sociology graduates. Cambridge University, the top university in the country, and second in the world ranking, offer Sociology at undergraduate level. All Russell group universities have Sociology faculties and therefore all universities perceive Sociology to be a highly valuable and a credible A level.

Course Overview

Unit 1: Education with Theory and Methods.

Unit 2: Topics in Sociology: The Family; Beliefs in Society

Unit 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

How will I learn?

As well as producing regular written assignments, you will be expected to engage in traditional teaching, flipped learning, seminars/tutorials, group presentations, inquiry based learning and research projects. It is important to be aware of current affairs by reading or listening to the news regularly, in addition to watching relevant documentaries where appropriate.

Where can I go after the course?

Careers: Civil Service Fast Track – Social Research Specialist; MI5, MI6 & GCHQ – Intelligence Officer & Data Analyst; KPMG – Chartered Accountancy Graduate Programme & Auditor; Police; Teaching; Army Officer; Business/Marketing analyst; Fisheries; Analyst Law; and many, many more...

Further Education: Sociology; Psychology; History; Politics; Economics; Geography; Business; Journalism; Nursing; Teaching; Social Work.

Entry Requirements

Standard 6th Form entry requirements.

It is preferred that students have a minimum of a GCSE grade 6 in this or a related subject i.e. English, History, Geography, RS, Psychology.

The syllabus assumes no previous study of Sociology at GCSE.

Assessment at the end of Year 2

Three written exams of 2 hours each.