

Sociology

Advanced Level

General Information

Sociology appeals to students who are interested in contemporary issues and social problems. It involves taking a step back from our own view of the world and commonsense explanations for the working of society. Explanations and competing sociological theories are assessed through academic assignments, class debates and group activities.

Sociology is a subject that you can relate to. It's relevant to your everyday life so you can immediately engage with the subject even if you haven't studied it before. Studying Sociology encourages you to develop critical and reflective thinking skills, and a respect for social diversity – useful skills to take to higher education and working life.

The course will be of interest if you:

- Would enjoy a subject which has relevance and application to your everyday life
- Have an interest in a wide range of contemporary social issues/problems and wish to embark upon a new area for Advanced Level study without the requirement for a GCSE in the subject

Course content

The qualification consists of three modular units. Topics include:

- Education
- Research methods
- Culture and identity
- Mass media
- Crime and deviance
- Theory and methods



Entry requirements

You should meet the general college entry requirements for Advanced Level study. Please see the current Prospectus - Advanced Programmes, Entry Requirements. You should have at least grade 4 at GCSE English. Prior study of Sociology is not necessary to start advanced level in this subject but, if taken at GCSE, at least a grade 4 is required.

In this subject, particular skills and aptitudes will be required, many of which will be demonstrated by students' GCSE profiles.

Entry requirements might be changed in light of curriculum reform.

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How it is taught

The subject offers an informal yet supportive environment in which to study. Teachers are always available for consultation and guidance. A variety of teaching and learning styles is employed in class, ranging from teacher led to group work and individual presentations. You are encouraged to take an active role in class discussions and must be sufficiently motivated to carry out preparatory work for class.

Examination details

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|---------------------|---------|---------------|---------------------|
| A level paper one | 2 hours | 2nd Year June | 33% of A level Mark |
| A level paper two | 2 hours | 2nd Year June | 33% of A level Mark |
| A level paper three | 2 hours | 2nd Year June | 33% of A level Mark |

Other relevant information

Both employers and universities value the skills that Sociology develops in students. Of particular relevance are the skills of background research, interpretation of data, increased social awareness and critical evaluation.

Among the many benefits of studying Sociology are that you are encouraged to:

- Develop the essential knowledge and understanding of central aspects of sociological thought and methods
- Demonstrate the application of a range of skills
- Consider the integration of sociological themes:
- Be aware of socialisation, culture and identity
- Learn about social differentiation, power and stratification

Useful / common subject combinations

Sociology combines well with many other subjects, fitting equally well with either the sciences or humanities. Popular combinations include Law, Business Studies, Economics, Government and Policy, Media Studies, Philosophy and Ethics, English Literature, Psychology, History, Geography and Health & Social Care.

Careers / HE information

Sociology is useful in a wide variety of occupations and degree courses and especially in teaching, nursing, social work, police, probation, advertising or journalism. It is particularly relevant to criminology, psychology, anthropology and social policy. Many degree courses involve some Sociology, e.g. Medicine, Politics, Law and Business Studies

