

SOCIOLOGY (GCSE)

Examination Board

Eduqas

Overview of the course

Sociology is the study of society, in particular how people learn how to behave in society. We focus on why there are so many inequalities in society based on social class, gender, age and ethnicity.

High crime rates in our inner cities, 'binge drinking ladettes', boys' underachievement in school, the effects of divorce on children, racism and the police, the effects of the media on violent behaviour, these are among the great debates of today. They are the subject of countless views and opinions however in sociology we look at these issues from an evidence-based perspective.

Students who take sociology have a better understanding of the world around them and are more critical of social injustices. You will gain detailed knowledge as well as analytical and debating skills.

Sociology is exciting, interesting and relevant to students' lives. It encourages students to take a questioning approach to evidence and issues and gets you thinking in an evaluative way.

The Eduqas Syllabus will allow you to:

- think independently about the world around you
- be more aware of your own and others actions
- evaluate research
- question how people behave
- explain how society works

Course content

Unit 1: Understanding social processes

Cultural transmissions

This is the introductory topic focussing on what sociologists believe and how they do their research.

The sociology of families

We look at what is going on in families nowadays and how the family has changed over time. We investigate who has power in the home and if we still have a traditional family and whether this is even a good thing.

The sociology of education

In this unit we investigate why some groups achieve better in education than others and if this is to do with the schools themselves or also to do with outside factors like family or social class issues.

Unit 2: Understanding social structures

Crime and deviance

We look at who is most likely to be in prison and the reasons for this. We also focus on how the official crime statistics are created and whether they really tell us the truth.

Social Differentiation

In this unit we investigate who has power in society and why some social groups are treated differently to others. We look at the reasons for this and what could be done to change it.

Research methods

How sociologists get their research.

How you will be assessed

Unit	Assessment and duration	Maximum marks	Percentage of overall result
Unit 1	Exam 1 hour 45 minutes	100	50%
Unit 2	Exam 1 hour 45 minutes	100	50%

This course is 100% examined in two written papers. Students who successfully complete this course will be awarded a GCSE graded on a nine point scale: 1 to 9 – where 9 is the best grade.

Post-16 courses available

It is a good grounding if you were interested in taking other Social Science A Level subjects such as Criminology, Law, Psychology or BTEC Health and Social Care.

Sociology is a very well-valued subject by employers. Students wishing to gain employment in the areas of Social Work, Counselling, the Police, Education, the NHS or Politics would find this qualification particularly useful.