



# SOCIOLOGY

**Entry Requirements:** Grade 4 in English Language

**Exam board:** AQA

**Full Subject Specification website:** <http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/sociology/specifications/AQA-7191-7192-SP-2015.PDF>

## Why study Sociology:

Sociology gives students a chance to develop their critical and creative thinking. Our teaching staff have outstanding knowledge and understanding of existing and emerging social problems and theoretical approaches integral to Sociology which they skilfully apply to the course, leading to consistently excellent results.

We strongly value the importance of learning beyond the classroom. Our department offers you the unique opportunity to experience the Karl Marx Walking Tour in Central London where you can immerse yourself in the remarkable tales of this influential figure in Sociology.

Our lessons are hands-on. One of our specialities is developing your ability to investigate, evaluate and communicate empirical information. We also place strong emphasis on developing motivation and team work skills. These skills are in high demand by universities and employers and we are very proud to be the department that offers youngsters the platform to build, through their Sociology studies, these essential transferable skills.

We live in a diverse, dynamic and constantly changing world. Our department is without a doubt the best place to develop your sociological imagination; the special ways of identifying, describing and evaluating the nature of social life and what makes us who we are. Studying Sociology in our department is truly transformative. Once your sociological imagination has been developed, you will never see the world in the same way again.

## Subject Specification Outline:

This specification consists of four main topics:

### 1. Education with Theory and Methods:

you will study differential educational achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity in contemporary society.

You will assess the significance of educational policies, including policies of selection, marketisation and privatisation, and policies to achieve greater equality of opportunity or outcome.

You will explore the theoretical, practical and ethical considerations influencing choice of topic, choice of method(s) and the conduct of research.

You will debate the nature of science and the extent to which Sociology can be regarded as scientific.

**2. Families and Households:** you will study changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation, divorce, childbearing and the life course, including the sociology of personal life, and the diversity of contemporary family and household structures.

You will debate gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships within the family in contemporary society.

**3. The Media:** you will explore the media, globalisation and popular culture.

You will research media representations of age, social class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and disability.

**4. Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods:** you will study the social distribution of crime and deviance by ethnicity, gender and social class, including recent patterns and trends in crime.

You will explore crime control, surveillance, prevention and punishment, victims, and the role of the criminal justice system and other agencies.

## Progress Assessment:

As well as ongoing formal half term assessments, you will be regularly set a variety of practice exam questions which will be completed both in class and as homework.

Teacher, self and peer-assessment will be used throughout by means of exam board mark schemes coupled with the expertise of teaching staff.

## Final Exam Format:

You will sit three Exam Papers (two hours each) at the end of Year 13.

## Self Study Requirements:

For every hour spent in the classroom during a fortnightly period, you will be expected to spend the equivalent amount of time outside the classroom completing learning tasks set by teaching staff. Full details about the nature of these tasks will be available at the end of each lesson from teaching staff. A workbook will be given to each student for each topic studied to complete during supervised study.

## Progression Pathways:

A level Sociology can lead to a host of exciting future prospects. Many of our students go on to study Sociology at university either as a standalone subject or it can be combined with various other subjects including Law, Politics, Anthropology and Criminology.

Job opportunities include: Social Worker, Lawyer, Prison Officer, Police Officer, Welfare Officer, Counsellor, Politician, Youth & Community Worker and even Business & Management.