

# SOCIOLOGY

Exam Board: AQA



**ASPIRE TO EXCELLENCE**

## Course Content

**Education with Theory and Methods** - Through this topic you will explore different sociological perspectives regarding the purpose of education, the reasons for differences in educational attainment and how social policies have changed our experiences of school. Methods in Context requires you to consider how sociologists would research issues in education.

**Topics in Sociology** - Topic 1: Families and Households accounts for 40 marks within this examination paper. Through this topic you will study the diversity of family forms and how societal changes have led to their emergence, such as cohabitation, divorce and the changes in childbearing. Topic 2: The Media makes up the final 40 marks of this examination, in which you will study the new media and their significance for an understanding of the role of the media in contemporary society, the relationship between ownership and control of the media, globalisation and popular culture, the processes of selection and presentation of the content of the news, media representations of age, social class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and disability and finally the relationship between the media, their content and presentation, and audiences.

**Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods** - You will be expected within this topic to be familiar with sociological explanations of crime, deviance, social order and social control, along with the social distribution of crime and deviance by ethnicity, gender and social class, including recent patterns and trends in crime. Within this examination you will also become familiar with how globalisation has impacted upon the types and frequency of crime within society. Theory and Methods will require you to be familiar with various research methods that sociologists may use along with answering question such as 'Can sociology be seen as a science' or 'Can sociologists be value free'.

## Assessment

**Paper 1** - 2 hour written examination on Education with Theory and Methods (33.3%)

**Paper 2** – 2 hour written examination on Topics in Sociology (33.3%)

**Paper 3** – 2 hour written examination on Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods (33.3%).

## Career Opportunities

There are many different kinds of degree in this area, and it can be combined with other degree subjects as at A-Level. There are many graduate jobs related to Sociology, such as education, training and teaching, social/community work, social research, social worker and probation officer. If you do not go on to degree level in the subject, an A-Level will help get you a career in the areas of business, the public sector and the not-for-profit sector.

## Entry Requirements

Requirements to study sociology at A Level include 5 GCSE qualifications at grade 5-9 including English at grade 5, and Science at grade 5.

## Suggested Reading

Key Magazines – Sociology Review

Websites – [www.sociology.org.uk](http://www.sociology.org.uk)