



GCSE Sociology handbook

What is sociology?

Sociology is the study of human society.

Sociologists investigate and explain the social world and our behaviour within it.

They are particularly interested in the social causes and consequences of human behaviour and understanding the ways in which society influences us and shapes our daily lives.

In an increasingly interconnected world, sociology appeals to learners interested in understanding how society works and addressing its divisions and inequalities.

Sociologists study a wide range of topics as the diagram below shows.



How will I be assessed?

At Chelsea Academy students study the AQA sociology course, which is assessed by two exam papers at the end of year 11 that requires students to answer using both short and extended responses. The information below explains both the topics you will learn and how they are assessed.

Paper 1: The sociology of families and education

What's assessed

- The sociology of families
- The sociology of education
- Relevant areas of social theory and methodology

Students will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of these topics.

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions

- Section A has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses.
- Section B has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses.

Paper 2: The sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification

What's assessed

- The sociology of crime and deviance
- The sociology of social stratification
- Relevant areas of social theory and methodology

Students will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of these topics.

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions

- Section A has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses.
- Section B has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses.

Use the link below to find out more about the course:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/gcse/sociology-8192/specification-at-a-glance>

What will I learn?

<p>The family</p> <p>Differing views of the functions of families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● How family forms differ in the UK and within a global context. <p>Changing relationships within families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● How relationships within families have changed over time. <p>Different views of conjugal role relationships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Different criticisms of families (isolation and unrealistic idealisation, loss of traditional functions, lack of contact with wider kinship networks, the status and role of women within families, marital breakdown, dysfunctional families).● Changes in the pattern of divorce in Britain since 1945 and the consequences of divorce for family members and structures.	<p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Different views of the role and functions of education.● Different views of the correspondence principle on the relationship between education and capitalism <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Factors affecting educational achievement.● Class-based inequalities and parental choice and competition between schools.● Processes within schools affecting educational achievement.● Teacher expectations and the creation of counter school cultures.
<p>Crime and deviance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The social construction of concepts of crime and deviance and explanations of Formal and informal methods of social control.● The work of Heidensohn on female conformity in male dominated patriarchal societies.● Factors affecting criminal and deviant behaviour and ways in which criminal and deviant behaviour have generated public debate.● Delinquent subcultures and Carlen on women, crime and poverty.● The usefulness of the main sources of data on crime, the collection of official data on crime, patterns and trends in crime figures and the 'dark figure'.	<p>Social stratification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Different views of the functionalist theory of social stratification.● The work of Davis and Moore on social stratification from a functionalist perspective.● Different views of socio-economic class.● The work of Marx and Weber on socio-economic class.● Different views on factors affecting life chances.● Different interpretations of poverty as a social issue.● The work of Townsend on relative deprivation and Murray on the underclass.● Different forms of power and authority.● The work of Weber on power and authority.● Different views on factors affecting power relationships.● Patriarchy.
<p>Theory and Methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Research design● Qualitative and quantitative methods● Different types of data● Primary and secondary sources● Interpretation of data● Practical Issues● Ethical issues	

Where can sociology take me?

Given the nature of the subject, employment opportunities abound! Below are some of the fields that people work in who have sociology qualifications.

Social Services	Community Work	Law	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-profit agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law enforcement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judicial affairs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attorney
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth/Elderly services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childcare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Probation/Parole 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paralegal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal justice 	
Health Services	Business	Publishing and the media	Teaching
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Relations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary and secondary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • counselling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Editing 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journalism 	

Where can I find out more?

Below are some recommendations for further reading if you think sociology may be for you.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES AND READING LIST

Sociology blogs

- Sociology in Focus (<http://sociologyinfocus.com>), which has some lively posts about popular culture,
- The Grumpy Sociologist which focuses on sports, masculinities, popular culture and violence (<http://thegrumpysociologist.blogspot.com>),
- Sociology for the People (<http://sociologyforthepeople.wordpress.com>) by an advocate of public sociology,
- BodySpaceSociety (<http://montclairsoci.blogspot.com.au>), which covers a range of topics by several sociologists.

Web pages

- The Sociology Review- <https://www.thesociologicalreview.com/>
- The Joseph Rowntree Foundation <https://www.jrf.org.uk/> for research methods

In the news

- bbc.co.uk

Apps

- Gojimo – Revise learn and study for GCSE & A Level

You can also contact me at: louise.dack@chelsea-academy.org should you have any questions.

