



St Mary Redcliffe
and Temple School

Sociology



Sociology

Exam board : OCR

Specification no: H180 (AS) / H580 (A Level)

This is a two year linear A level course - The AS content forms the first half of the A level content and can be assessed at the end of Year 12 to provide an AS Level qualification if the student is dropping the subject and believes they can get a strong grade. Otherwise the two years of content are assessed at the end of Year 13 to give the A level grade.

AS Level

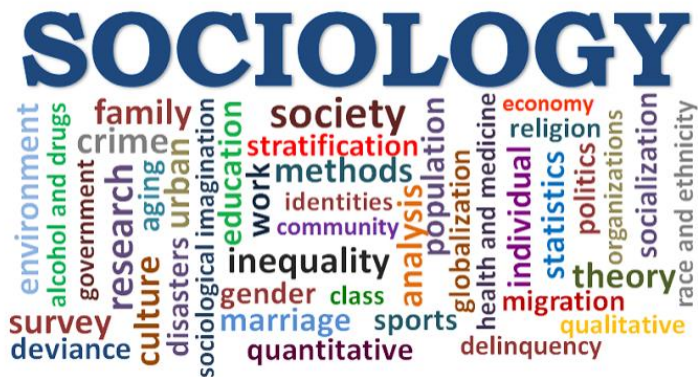
Component	Code	Assessment	AS%
Socialisation, culture and identity	H180(01)	1 hour 30 minutes written exam	50% of total AS Level
Researching and understanding social inequalities	H180(02)	1 hour 30 minutes written exam	50% of total AS Level

A Level

Component	Code	Assessment	A2%
Socialisation, culture and identity	H580(01)	1 hour 30 minutes written exam	30% of total A Level
Researching and understanding social inequalities	H580(02)	1 hour 30 minutes written exam	35% of total A Level
Debates in contemporary society	H580(03)	2 hours 15 minutes written exam	35% of total A Level

Course Delivery:

Sociology is taught through conventional lessons, where students outline, apply and evaluate a range of sociological theories and studies. Lessons are often built around group discussion, giving students the opportunity to develop skills in discussion and debate. Class work and independent work will often involve the analysis of contemporary material. Lessons often involve engaging with the news, documentaries and contemporary events. The emphasis is on empowering the students to learn through their own experience. Students are encouraged to critically engage with the social world around them and to interpret what they find using sociological theory.



AS Level Course Content:

The Sociology OCR specification focuses on Sociology's key themes: socialisation, culture and identity; and power, control and inequality. The course provides students with the exciting opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the world around them and reflect on social issues that are often relevant to their own social experiences. They open up the possibility for fascinating discussions, for example, 'what impact do digital forms of communication have on social relations?', 'how do sociologists investigate inequality in society?' and 'what is the most effective way to reduce crime?' Through the course, students can acquire knowledge and a critical understanding of contemporary social processes and social changes. They have the opportunity to develop a broad set of key desirable skills, including the ability to analyse and formulate clear, logical arguments with scope for extensive evaluation using a range of theoretical perspectives.

Exploring socialisation, culture and identity (01)

Section A of this unit introduces students to key concepts associated with developing a sociological understanding of the contemporary social world. It is intended to introduce the AS core themes of culture, socialisation and identity. Key issues include the formation of culture, the process of socialisation and the link between socialisation and the creation of identities, and the ways in which different aspects of an individual's identity may intersect.

In Section B students will examine how different social groups are represented in the media and examine evidence of representations in the media in relation to ethnicity, gender, social class and age. They will also study theoretical views of these media representations.

Researching and understanding social inequalities (02)

Section A of this unit explores how sociologists collect their data. Students examine the relationship between sociological theory and the methods used to research social life. They consider the use of quantitative and qualitative data-collection methods and analysis in the context of social inequalities.

In Section B they also study the main patterns and trends in relation to work and employment, income and wealth, poverty and social mobility. In addition, they will consider evidence of social inequalities from a range of areas of social life and how these inequalities affect life chances.

A Level Course Content:

At A Level students are examined on the AS Level components in greater detail. They also study a further component: Debates in contemporary society.

Debates in contemporary society (03)

This component engages learners in theoretical debates and how these relate to a contemporary global society. The component will develop knowledge and understanding of social processes and social change. It develops links between the topics studied in this component, the nature of sociological thought contemporary social policy and the core themes. Contemporary and global debates are introduced through a compulsory topic of 'Globalisation and the digital world' in Section A, whilst Section B explores them in more depth from a detailed study of Crime and Deviance.

In Section A students consider the relationship between globalisation and digital forms of communication. They will consider the positive and negative impacts of digital forms of communication in a global context. They will also explore how traditional theoretical theory can be applied to this relatively new area of sociological research.

In Section B students explore crime and deviance in society. They will analyse patterns and trends in crime, in relation to class, gender, age and ethnicity. Students will also explore different theoretical approaches to the study of crime and deviance and consider right-wing and left-wing crime reduction strategies.

Entry requirements:

If the subject is taken at GCSE it should be passed at 5 or above and at least one English/Humanities/Social Science subject should be passed with a 6. There is also a requirement for grade 5 in Maths.



Frequently asked questions:

Below are some questions that we often get asked at open evenings.

What is Sociology?

Simply put, Sociology is the study of society, human social behaviour and social groups.

How many classes and teachers are there?

We currently have four Year 12 classes and three Year 13 classes. There are around 20 students in each class. There are currently six teachers in the Sociology department, who also teach a range of other Social Sciences and Humanities subjects.

What are the questions like in the Sociology exams?

The three Sociology exams include a range of different length questions. These range from 4 marks to 40 marks, but are mostly essay based. Students are assessed in three key areas: Knowledge, application and evaluation. Students will develop their essay writing skills throughout the two years.

How are students assessed throughout the course?

Due to the strong essay focus in the Sociology exams, most assessment throughout the course involves essay writing. Students will practice writing different lengths of essays and receive regular feedback in order to develop these skills.

What is the difference between Sociology and Psychology?

Although Sociology and Psychology have some similar areas of study (including sociological research methods and Social Psychology), they are quite different subjects. The main difference is that Sociology explores issues in society more generally, whereas Psychology mostly focusses on the behaviour of the individual.

What subjects go well with studying Sociology?

The subject content of Sociology incorporates some areas from Politics, Psychology, Law, History and Philosophy and Ethics, so may fit well with these subjects. However, students shouldn't worry too much about this and should choose subjects based on their interests and ambitions.

Are there any trips or extra-curricular opportunities throughout the Sociology course?

In previous years, we have taken students on trips with other Social Sciences subjects. These have included a Criminology conference in London and a 'Gender in the Media' workshop at the University of Bristol. Although these trips are unlikely to run this year, we will continue to look for virtual or accessible opportunities for students to take part in. There are also several clubs and societies within the Sixth Form that link to sociological themes (Including Feminist Society, BAME Society, Politics Society, LGBTQ+ Society and City of Sanctuary society).

Which university courses does the Sociology A Level link to?

There are a huge variety of Social Sciences courses that link well to the Sociology A Level. Some courses with a strong sociological element include: Sociology, Childhood and Youth Sociology, Social Policy, Criminology and Anthropology. Students often choose to study joint honours courses with another Social Sciences subject, such as Law, Politics or Psychology.

How would Sociology prepare me for future employment?

Studying Sociology prepares students for any career that would involve working with people, as students broaden their understanding of social groups and society. It also enables students to develop their confidence with public speaking, as well as formulating arguments and extended writing. Such skills are transferrable to a wide range of career paths. More specifically, Sociology relates directly to careers such as: Education, Community work, Social researcher, Policing, Social work, Public Relations, Civil service work, Marketing and Journalism.

What do students think of Sociology at Redcliffe?

Below are some quotes from some of our current Year 13 Sociology students, when asked to describe what it's like to study Sociology:

- "Sociology is my favourite subject because the topics are so relevant to everyday life. It's interesting to be able to interlink real experiences with things we learn in lessons"
- "Sociology is a very interesting subject, which expands your ideas about the reality of society and how it works. It also includes lots of class discussions"
- "If you like talking, debating and finding out new things about the world, take Sociology"
- "Sociology has changed the way I view the world"
- "Sociology is stimulating subject that allows you to question society and learn about the world around you in a structured way"
- "Lots of studies and essays – just so you know"
- "A lot of what we learn in Sociology comes up in multiple topics so you can make links, which I find useful"
- "A really interesting subject, which makes you think more deeply about life"
- "Really interesting. It helps when making conversation as you can get a better understanding about what's going on in the world."



Want to find out more about Sociology?

Below are some resources to help you find out more about studying Sociology.

- The OCR Sociology A Level specification website:
<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/sociology-h180-h580-from-2015/>
- A great introductory book: Tomley, K et al. (2015) *The Sociology Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained*
- An introductory video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnCJU6PaCio&safe=active>
- A summary of the content of several A Level Sociology topics:
<https://revisesociology.com/>

For further information: Contact Miss H Foster (Head of Sociology)



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