

Sociology

Awarding Body: Students follow the AQA Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced GCE courses.

Course Content and Examination Requirements

Throughout the two year course, the core themes of socialisation, culture and identity plus social differentiation, power and stratification are considered as an integral part of all modules. Since September 2000 the course has been divided into two parts, AS and A2. Each part contains two units, which are, in turn, sub-divided.

Year 12	Year 13
AS Level Units	A2 Units leading to full Advanced GCE
<p>Unit 1 Culture and Identity; Families and Households; Poverty & Welfare.</p> <p>This unit will be externally examined in January.</p> <p>Written paper: 1 hr.</p> <p>Candidates choose 1 topic from 3 and answer one question. Each question consists of 5 parts.</p>	<p>Unit 3 Beliefs in society; Global Development; Power & Politics</p> <p>This unit will be externally examined in January.</p> <p>Candidates choose 1 topic and answer 1 compulsory question (consisting of 2 or 3 parts) and 1 question from a choice of 2. This will be an essay question.</p>
<p>Unit 2 Education; Health; Sociological Methods</p> <p>This unit will be externally examined in May.</p> <p>Written paper: 2hrs</p> <p>Candidates choose 1 topic (Education or Health) and answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 1 question on chosen topic consisting of 4 parts. b) 1 question on sociological research methods. c) 1 question on freestanding research methods consisting of 4 parts. 	<p>Unit 4 Crime & Deviance; Stratification & Differentiation; Sociological Theory & Research Methods.</p> <p>This unit will be externally examined in June.</p> <p>Written paper: 2hrs</p> <p>Candidates choose 1 topic and answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 1 question (in 2 parts) on the chosen topic. b) 1 question (in 2 parts) on sociological methods in the context of the chosen topic. c) 1 essay question on sociological theory and methods.

This regime enables girls who wish to concentrate on other subjects at A2 level, to achieve a qualification in Sociology and have exams spread comfortably throughout the course. Also those who wish to complete all sixth form study after one year, can equally, achieve recognised qualifications, which can be added to in the future. Students use two major A Level text books and a wide variety of other sources, including journals, newspapers, video sources, the internet and the excellent Sociology section of the school library.

No prior knowledge of Sociology is required to study the subject at this level. In addition, it lays an appropriate foundation for the further study of Sociology and/or related subjects in higher education, as well as preparing students for work in a variety of settings.

Comparison with GCSE

It is not necessary for pupils to have completed the GCSE Sociology course in order to begin the AS/A2 level course. Many of our students come fresh to the subject in the Sixth Form and they are outstandingly successful. However, both Examination Boards recommend that students following this course should have achieved **at least grade C** at GCSE in English Language.

Relevance to Further Studies or Careers

Sociology combines well with both Arts and Science subjects and the course content appeals to a very wide variety of students from very diverse academic backgrounds. It is readily accepted by virtually all University departments for entry onto a wide variety of degree courses – many of which require the development of interpersonal skills. In the past, students have moved on to such diverse destinations as the Royal College of Music and Newcastle Dental School and several have undertaken post-graduate studies.

Further Information: Sr. M. Catherine